THE WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER;

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND RURAL ECONOMY.

Vol. III.] Cincinnati, July, 1842. [No. X.

Portrait of Lucretia.

The portrait on the opposite page, of Lucretia, a thorough bred Durham, is the property of M. L. Sullivant, Esq., of Columbus; color, white; was calved 24th July, 1838; got by Devonshire, 966; dam, Albina, by Don Pedro, 1926; g. dam, Adeliza, by Frederick, 1060; (Adeliza was imported by B. Rodman, with Devonshire, in 1829;) gr. g. dam, Adelo, by Orpheus, 473; gr. g. g. dam, Alfrede, by Alfred, 23; g. g. g. g. d. Strawberry, by Windsor, 698; g. g. g. g. g. g. d. Old Daisy, by Favorite, 252; g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Punch, 531; g. g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Hubback, 319.

Lucretia is justly prized by her owner on account of her pedigree, though she is deficient in some of those fine points which characterize the generality of Durham stock, being comparatively light in her hind quarters, and smaller altogether than the ordinary run of Durham cattle. There is notwithstanding a richness in her appearance, proclaiming at once her high breeding and value. She is one of a large herd in the possession of Mr. Sullivant, selections from which will occasionally appear in our pages.

Caution to Millers and Consumers of Bread.

Mobile, 17th July, 1842.

To Dr. M. W. Philips:—

About a month ago, a number of negroes, on the plantation of James G. Lyon, near Mobile, were seized with violent pains and cramp in the stomach, fainting fits, irritability of stomach, obstinate constipation, some with convulsions, and palsy of the limbs, little or no fever, &c.; in short, all the symptoms which belong to what has been called Lead, or Painter's Colic.

In a short time, nearly every negro on the place was seized with similar symptoms, and it became evident that there must be some extraordinary cause at work. On investigation, *the corn meal which they had been eating was found to contain lead which had been ground up with it*,—half a pint of lead was picked out of a bushel and a half of meal.

On going to the mill and examing the stones, it was found that the miller had, for the purpose of balancing and fixing it, *poured several pounds of melted lead into the eye of the runner stone, and this had worked loose, got between the stones, and was ground up with the meal!* The whole mystery was solved at once.

Now sir, I am informed that it is a very common thing for millers to use lead in this way, and I have no doubt that very many persons have been poisoned without ever being able to account for it, and the symptoms have been looked upon and treated as bilious colic, or some other disease.

I have just met with a similar fact, recorded in one of my foreign journals—a whole family had symptoms like those I have enumerated above, and on analysis the flour they had been eating was found to contain lead.

Mr. Lyon has already lost four valuable negroes, and a considerable number of others are almost entirely helpless from palsy in their limbs, some of whom will either die or remain useless for life.

When I say to you that every man, woman and child, is in daily danger of being poisoned by such ignorance or negligence, I have, I hope, said enough to impress upon your readers the importance of inquiring closely into this matter.

Yours, &c., J. C. Nott, M. D.

The following facts may be interesting to some of your readers.

Earl Spencer, one of the largest cattle breeders in England, has ascertained a novel fact, respecting the influence of the bull on the period of uterine gestation. His observations were made on several hundred cows—he found that the average time which the cows carried their calves, was about 285 days, when let to any of his bulls, except one, and the average time when put to this bull was 290 days. This is a curious fact, and may lead to some curious speculations in medical jurisprudence. It has generally been supposed that the mother, (who carried the fœtus in uterus,) alone influenced or determined the period of gestation. J. C. N

Proceedings of a Convention,

Held in the town of Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Society—together with the Constitution, &c., of said Society.

Pursuant to notice of the Auditor of Seneca county, Ohio, heretofore given conformably to the statute in such case made and provided, on the application of twelve freeholders therefor, a convention of the farmers of said county, was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the town of Tiffin, on Saturday the 1st day of January, 1842, to take into consideration the propriety of forming an Agricultural Society for said county.

At 12 o'clock, M. on said day, the Convention, exceeding twenty in number, was called to order by John Terry; on whose motion, Samuel Waggoner, of Clinton township, was called temporarily to the Chair—and, on motion, R. G. Pennington, of Tiffin, was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Abel Rawson,

Resolved, That this meeting form itself into a Society, to be called the "Seneca County Agricultural Society.

On motion of John Terry,

Resolved, That said society be organized by the election of one President, one Vice President, one Recording Secretary, one Corresponding Secretary, one Treasurer, and three Executive Committee-men.

On motion of Agreen Ingraham,

Samuel Waggoner was elected President.

On motion of Lewis Baltzell,

Agreen Ingraham, of Hopewell township, was elected Vice President.

On motion of William Toll,

Evan Dorsey, of Bloom township, was elected Recording Secretary.

On motion of John Terry,

R. G. Pennington was elected Corresponding Secretary.

On motion of William Toll,

Lloyd Norris, of Tiffin, was elected Treasurer.

On motion of Abel Rawson,

The three Commissioners of said county, viz: John Terry, Andrew Moore and George Stoner were elected the three Executive Committee-men of said society.

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Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of seven to draft and recommend a Constitution for the consideration and adoption of this Society; and the following gentlemen were appointed by the President such committee, to wit: Abel Rawson, William Toll, Jacob S. Jennings, Andrew Moore, John Terry, David S. Speilman and Jacob Souder.

On motion, the society adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

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At 2 o'clock, P. M. the Society met pursuant to adjournment, and Samuel Waggoner took the Chair as President, and *Evan Dorsey* assumed the duties of Recording Secretary.

Abel Rawson, from the committee, reported the Constitution, which was unanimously adopted; but which we regret our want of space will not allow us to publish in this number.

The following persons were appointed in each township to procure members: in Big Spring, Frederick Waggoner; Loudon, Charles W. Foster; Jackson, Abraham Hollopeter; Liberty, John Michaels; Hopewell, Lorenzo D. Shawhan; Seneca, Henry St. John; Eden, Selden Graves; Clinton, William Toll; Pleasant, Town Clark; Adams, Uriah P. Monroe; Scipio, Daniel Brown; Bloom, Josiah Roop; Venice, John Miller; Reed, Jacob Cole; Thompson, John Decker.

Samuel Waggoner, *Pres't.*
Evan Dorsey, *Recording Sec'y.*

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The officers of the society will meet at the Court House in Tiffin, on the first Thursday after the first Monday in March next, to ordain and establish such by-laws as they may deem necessary for the further government of the society, to prepare a list of premiums for the ensuing year; and transact such other business as may seem expedient.

R. G. Pennington,
Corresponding Secretary.

List of Premiums.

To be awarded by the Seneca County Agricultural Society.

Pursuant to an arrangement made at a meeting held on the 1st day of January, 1842, at the town of Tiffin, for the purpose of organizing "*The Seneca County Agricultural Society*," the board of managers of said society there chosen, met at said town of Tiffin, on the 10th day of March last, and established, for the ensuing year, the following list of premiums, to be awarded to the several competitors therefor, at the fair to be held in October next.

Premiums on the first best, in all the following classes, with few exceptions, will be awarded in money; on the second best as a premium, one of the following agricultural periodicals will be given, to wit: "The Ohio Gardener," "The Genesee Farmer," and

"The Cultivator,"—the first of which is published in Cincinnati, and the other two in the State of New York, all of which are valuable and interesting publications.

—

FIRST CLASS—GRAIN.

1st best 10 acres of wheat.....$8 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 5 acres of wheat.....6 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 1 acre of wheat.....4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 10 acres of Corn.....5 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 5 acres of corn.....4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 1 acre of corn.....3 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 3 acres of barley.....2 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 1 acre of barley.....3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 3 acres of peas.....3 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 1 acre of peas.....2 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 5 acres of oats.....3 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best half acre of potatoes.....3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best quarter acre of do.....2 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best and largest quantity of red clover seed raised on one farm....4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best acre of red clover seed.....3 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best quarter acre of flax.....2 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best and largest amount flax seed 2 00
2d do do do...Gardener
1st best cleanest half bushel do...1 00
2d do do do...Gardener

SECOND CLASS—CATTLE.

The following shall have been owned and kept in the county three months next preceding the fair, excepting the increase accruing within said time.

1st best pair of working oxen.....$4 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 4 year old matched cattle..3 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best cow and calf.....4 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 3 year old heifer.....3 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 2 year old do.....2 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best bull.....8 00
2d do.....Farmer
1st best 2 year old bull.....3 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best pair of fat oxen.....3 00
2d best pair of fat oxen.....Farmer
1st best six months' old bull.....$2 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best yearling heifer.....2 00
2d do do .....Gardener

THIRD CLASS—HORSES, ETC.

1st best stallion.....5 00
2d do.....Cultivator
1st best mare and colt 4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best spring colt.....2 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 2 year old colt.....2 00
2d do do.....Cultivator

FOURTH CLASS—SHEEP.

1st best ram, reference to wool.....$4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best six sheep do.....3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best ram, reference to carcass....3 00
2 do do.....Gardener

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1st best boar $3 00
2d do .....Cultivator
1st best sow and pigs 3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best sow.....2 00
2d do .....Gardener
1st best 2 spring pigs.....3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 3 six months' pigs 3 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best, fattest and heaviest hog,...2 00
2d do do do,...Gardener

SIXTH CLASS—DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

1st best and most perfect plough for all purposes,.....$3 00
2d do do do....Farmer
1st best cultivator.....2 00
2d do.....Farmer
1st best harrow 2 00
2d do.....Farmer
1st best 2 horse waggon..... .....3 00
2d do do.... .....Farmer
1st best mill for cleaning grain 4 00
2d do do.....Cultivator
1st best 10 yards fulled cloth.....4 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best 10 yards of flannel.....$4 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 10 yards of linen.....4 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 20 yards of carpeting.....4 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 10 yards of linsey.....2 in spoons
1st best and greatest quantity of raw silk in one family.....4 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best half pound silk thread....4 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best pair of woollen socks.....Gardener

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1st best pair of woollen socks.....Gardener

2d best pair of woollen socks.....Farmer
1st best pair of linen socks .....Gardener
2d do do do.....Farmer
1st best pair woollen gloves.....Gardener
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best woollen shawl.....$2 00
2d do do.....Gardener
1st best 10 pounds of butter.....$3 in spoons
2d do do.....Gardener
1st 5 do do.....2 in spoons
2d do do do.....Gardener
1st best not less 10 pounds cheese.3 in spoons
2d do do.....Farmer

SEVENTH CLASS—ROOTS.

1st best eight acres sugar beets....$2 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best quarter acre ruta baga.....2 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best do acre field carrots.....1 00
2d do do.....Farmer
1st best do acre mangle wurtzel 1 00
2d do do do.....Farmer

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Since the organization of this society, the number of its members have been increased to nearly one hundred, and the prospect of its future progression is now quite as encouraging as the most ardent could expect; and should all members of the society who feel an interest, in the encouragement and improvement of agriculture in our country, exert themselves sufficiently the ensuing season, our fair in October next will lay a foundation on which the future structure, however extensive, may safely and securely rest, and cannot fail to add much interest, strength, and encouragement to their association.

Premiums, as will be observed, for the present year, are necessarily small, owing in part, to the small initiation charge imposed to constitute membership. With this fund, together with a very liberal appropriation of one hundred dollars, made by the commissioners of the county at their last session out of the funds of the treasury, the board have been able to make the foregoing list of premiums.

R. G. Pennington,
April 14, 1842. *Corresponding Sec'y.*

Silk.

Richmond, Wayne co. Ia., June 28, 1842.

Mr. C. Foster:

Dear Sir,—if you can make it convenient to publish the following observations, in your interesting periodical, the Western Farmer and Gardener, you will not only oblige me, but satisfy the minds of many interested in the silk business. Through my removal from Mt. Pleasant, O. silk establishment, (the individual property of J. W. Gill, Esq.,) to Richmond, a report has been circulated, (I *hope* through ignorance,) that Mr. G.'s establishment is declining. Several gentlemen have called on me, anxious to know the truth. Others have informed me that Mr. G. has located himself at Wheeling, Va., and put a man in his place that is totally unacquainted with the silk business. Now sir, I know of no better way to refute these falsehoods, and satisfy the enquiring public than by soliciting your indulgence.

In April, '41, Mr. G. entered into an engagement with my son, John Fox, jun., to superintend the feeding of his worms and other matters incidental to that important department of the silk business. With the assistance of Mr. William Gill, he was very successful, having raised 704 lbs. of elegant cocoons. Mr. G. wishing to avail himself of his future services, and the demand for silk goods rapidly increasing, gave him an interest with me in the manufacturing department. After being with me six months, I saw he was fully competent to take the whole charge, and as I was importuned by several companies that were anxious to embark in the silk manufacturing, by the consent of Mr. G. I gave the whole business into his hands, and located myself and half my family at Richmond, leaving the other half to assist my son till he could dispense with them. I left Mr. G. on the 12th of March last, and the establishment then was in the most prosperous progression, and since then, Mr. G. has enlarged his premises. So much for the decline of Mt. Pleasant establishment. Relative to Mr. Gill giving the business into other hands is also false. Mr. G. is too much the tradesman, the patriot and enthusiast in the silk cause to give the control in whole or in part to any one who is not as rich in the knowledge of the silk business as he is in property, and there is not an individual in Mt. Pleasant, except my son, who has the most distant knowledge of the superintendance of a silk establishment. I usually receive a letter every week from Mr. G. or my son, and not the least hint has been given of such a change; therefore this invidious report is without foundation.

We commenced operations at Richmond the 1st of April, and with the assistance of my sons have two looms, one now in action on velvet, and the other for black cravat handkerchiefs, and in August another loom will be in operation for ladies' dresses. We have now completed five reels, one 48 spindle twister and one 48 spindle trammer, and one winding machine for dyed silk, having obviated the necessity for the first winding machine altogether.

We propel by water power, which is much cheaper and less trouble than steam power. I would persuade every one about to engage in the silk business to locate if possible where they can obtain this privilege. According to all probability there will be raised this season in Richmond and its vicinities, 1,000 bushels of cocoons, so that there will be no want of the raw material; also at Hamilton, Ohio, there is a fair prospect of great abundance. This should be an encouragement for those that have commenced to persevere, and an inducement to others to commence in the laudable enterprise. For the benefit of those about to commence reeling I would advise to make their reels not more than four feet in circumference, the old original Piedmontese reels being too long by two feet; those that have the winding of the silk from the long reel well know what trouble and waste attends it, whereas from a four foot reel the silk winds with the greatest facility. As superintendant, I have made up my mind to purchase no reeled silk longer than four feet. There is every prospect of some reasonable premiums from our State Legislature the next session, which will afford great encouragement to those engaged and about to engage in the silk cause. Many applications have been made to me relative to the standard weight that sewing silk ought to be sold under; also silk prepared for the loom. In answer, I would say, in England, France and Italy, sewing silk is sold by troy weight, and silk prepared for the loom by avoirdupois weight, which is sixteen ounces to the pound, troy weight being only twelve ounces to the pound. Numbers of storekeepers have bought sewing silk of our new raisers, say $10,00 per pound, the seller supposing twelve ounces to the pound, when upon calculation they have discovered the purchaser had taken sixteen ounces to the pound for the same money, thus depriving them o four ounces of their hard earned property. Several complaints have been made to me to this effect, and it is time that a mutual and general understanding should take place, especially as making sewings is now become a business. I am aware many storekeepers are not acquainted with the distinction. When they purchase a piece of silk fabric they purchase it under avoirdupois weight, and considering silk is silk, they are under the impression that sewing silk ought to be purchased at the same weight as silk fabrics; to this I answer, sewing silk is prepared for the needle and done with, but silk prepared for the loom has a long process of manufacture to go through, by which a deal of waste unavoidably occurs which is a dead loss to the manufacturer. This is the only reason I can assign for the distinction our forefathers made between the two articles, viz. sewing silk and silk for the loom. And as it has been a standard law in Europe for many generations back, I cannot see why we Americans should make any alteration. The subject only requires general and mutual understanding. Before I conclude, I beg leave once more to recommend Dr. T. White's improved silk machine to the public. I published its merits some time back in the Nashville Silk Culturist. Since then, the Dr. has made other improvements upon it which greatly facilitates its action. Dr. White, a few weeks back exhibited the machine in our factory to the admiration of many spectators, and they unanimously decided it to be the best extant. As a further proof of its usefulness, Mr. Gill has purchased the whole State of Ohio, except the following counties,—Montgomery, Clarke, Greene, Preble, Washington, Hamilton, Shelby, Clermont, Butler and Wayne,—the four first counties my son, Robert Fox, has purchased of him. We have attached Dr. White's principle to our newly constructed machinery, which is the only one in the Union for factory use; also Mr. Gill has adopted the same to his original machinery. These are so many proofs of the great advantages attending Dr. White's machine, being a saving of time and trouble to a considerable amount. Just as I was about closing these remarks, Mr. J. E. Jones put into my hands your last number, in which I see some judicious observations and sound advice given by Mr. Townsend. I am happy to find one more has taken up the subject and so ably defended the silk cause, which has much prejudice yet to contend with. For the last three years, Mr. Gill, with myself, has been laboring to remove the difficulties, or I would rather say the *supposed* difficulties attending the raising of silk, and not without success. Still there are many, notwithstanding all our endeavors, determined to pursue a contrary course, and the event is the loss of their worms. There has been serious losses in this State this season, owing chiefly to their haste in hatching the eggs so early, before the foliage could be depended upon; a frost came and destroyed the leaves, leaving the young worms without food. Lettuce, cherry and currant leaves, and other trash, was resorted to, but the end was disease, and in most cases death. Others, anxious to raise a great

quantity, crowded the worms so thick that three parts out of four died. Others, from uncleanliness and want of vintillation, have lost thousands by the muscardine.

Now, sir. all this loss might have been avoided, had they followed the advice given so frequently from the press. And is the silk cause to be abandoned, the trees destroyed. and a business destined to be a shower of wealth to this country prostrated. because a few have been unsuccessful through inattention, want of cleanliness, industry and perseverance? The frost has been very fatal near the lakes, still I have not heard of any destroying their trees. On the contrary, they have doubled their diligence. and put forth more energy. I never knew any business made profitable without a system, connected with industry, patience and perseverance; and can we expect the silk business to be exempt? Humbug, as it is called by many, it has pioneered its way for the last three years beyond expectation. For instance, the bounty paid in Ohio, in 1839, was only $71,10; and in 1841, $2,681,76; in Mass., in 1839, $439,99; in 1841, $4,675,10; in Penn., 1840, $1,101,89; in 1841, $4,418,-55. In N. Y., the increase of cocoons has been very rapid; in 1840 they raised 2,100 pounds; and in 1841, 6,426 pounds.

Now, sir. I challenge any one to prove the humbuggery the silk cause is stigmatised with. I consider here is proof sufficient to silence its most inveterate enemies. Rev. F. A Ross, of Burlington, N. J., the last year, sold 300 pounds of reeled silk for $1,600,00: and there needs no further proof to convince the unprejudiced mind, open to conviction, that the silk trade is now become a national business. The enquiries of the gentleman signed "Tyro," are so numerous and diversified, that I would recommend him to Dennis' Silk Manual: it is the most plain and concise treatise upon silk culture that I have ever seen; it may be purchased at Mr. Gill's silk factory Mt. Pleasant,—price, 37½ cents. It is a treatise I would recommend to all about to commence in the silk business. Our silk establishment is located in the Northern Liberties; we shall be happy to receive a visit from you, sir, or any of your correspondents or friends in Cincinnati. We have a few shares to dispose of in the said company,—application, post paid, to Jones, Fox, sen., & Co., will be attended to. Pardon me in transgressing so long upon your time and patience, and permit to remain, dear sir, yours, with sentiments of the greatest respect,

John Fox, Sen., *Sup't.*

Agricultural Resources of Mississippi.

Log Hall, June 1, 1842.

J. H. Hammond, Esq.,

Mine ancient friend—I proceed to answer your enquiry, as to "what are the agricultural resources of Mississippi?"

You ask, as if you thought the information could be contained in a nut shell; but certainly you think little of this soil, this climate, and their adaptation to the production of a vast variety of necessaries—luxuries too. Many of you, no doubt, think there be "no place like home;" and many of you have connected our politics, and our code of morals, too, with the soil: thinking all be bad indeed. But, have a care, if our soil make men worse, it were well many of you staid at home, for if the signs of the times augur any thing, they foretell that there are others, than Mississippians, who cannot bear crowding—"the screws," are an awful thing, and I fear, before they be run down, so as to press in a righteous compass, many of you will be, where the Irishman's flea was—*not there.*

I promise you only an attempt to answer, for neither are my attainments of that character, my information suitable, nor yet is there enough known here, to enable me to handle the subject as it merits. I will, though, give you enough, to satisfy you, that Mississippi is the "garden of the West," and may induce others to add their mite, as I propose giving you this, through the *Western Farmer and Gardener*, whose proprietor has made as many exertions to make his paper as neat in mechanical appearance, and as useful in the working department, as any other, at least as opportunities would warrant. I shall "naught extenuate," and fear you may think I have read "Baron Munchausen:" but this, I assure you, I will faithfully give you—either what I know and have seen; what I have derived from others, or deduced from cases so analogous, that it appears to me "good." I mention this, particularly, because the subject involves so much. I must be tedious to you, and much will look like a "fish story," you placing so low an estimate on these parts. You cannot suppose, I would sacrifice truth, when I lose those feelings of "Auld Lang Syne;" then if error there be, attribute not to design.

I shall endeavor to divide the subject of our "resources," that I may the better give you in detail; and though I include "manufactures," yet I only mean for home market, as I think them a handmaid to farming, can be made an adjuvant by the consumption of a surplus food, and giving employment to young and old hands, as well as raising a capital, of land, water and wood, now lying idle in the north and east, and northeast of this State.

I shall then divide my subject into animal, manufactures, mineral and vegetable; and will

first, take up the last subject, for on it, depends all things, and by observing what has already been done in agriculture proper, you will more readily see what can be done in the others.

Of the *vegetable* products of our soil I will,

1st, Name *cotton*, it being the prime article of cultivation; all other things giving place, and all bowing in adoration at its shrine. So far, it has been every thing; and more than any other product; it will pay its own way across the "big pond;" no raising of tolls to pay passage money; it, lord of the soil, travels whither it be sent, though not like the preachers on the railroad—free.

Mississippi ranks first in the production of cotton, making some 370,000 bales of 400 pounds each; about the one-fourth made in the Union; and near four times as much as that "gallant" state of South Carolina. Much of our richest soil, in the best location for cotton, lies still in nature's garb, much not being in the hands of working men, and much not yet protected by levees.

The product per acre, varying as much as you could imagine. Sometimes, probably, even under 500 pounds of seed; again as high as 2,500 pounds, I know, and I believe even to exceed; the quantity depending not only on land, but seasons and cultivation. The yield is about 29 pounds to the cwt. of seed cotton, I have known more, though seldom less, and the price higher than any East of us, except Sea Islands.

2d, *Grain*. Until very recently, we made not near enough *corn;* the small quantity planted, and too little attention bestowed to it, as a crop, compelled us to buy largely. Throughout the State, the crop has averaged but little over fifteen bushels per acre, probably twenty, though either is greater than you have been accustomed to; I have known a single crop, where thirty hands were worked, to average over forty bushels; I could say fifty bushels, but the only guide was wagon loads, the size of houses and the quantity used. At this present writing, the crops within a few miles; say, worked by 75 to 100 hands, bid fair to average thirty, and two of them over forty bushels. They have been cultivated. *I have never known a failure of a fair crop, when cultivated here;* but when not cultivated, or not enough planted, short crops must be expected. I knew a small farmer, even this year, to plant 125 acres in cotton and 30 in corn. I believe there can be produced an average of 30 bushels per acre, by planting well, cultivating well, and expend a portion of labor in manuring:—this is three times your product.

The product of *small grain*, with my limited knowledge, and means to learn, is difficult to say. The returns made by Marshall will not be much of a criterion in this article; for there are a great number of us who cut when green, for feeding when cured—we only thrash out for seeding, and few of us have ever paid any attention to its yield, for we count it no object. The oat crop is a certain crop here, never knew a failure of what we deem a fair crop; have grown it to attract the attention of those who knew what a crop should be, and they pronounced it a *very good* crop—yield, from 15 to 20 bushels, I *guess*.

Rye will do excellently well, yield over oats. Wheat, I am told by a number of persons who grow it, in this State, will not exceed 12 to 15 bushels. Of the latter grain, a gentleman living in Simpson, assured me, he had raised 40 bushels, weighing 60 pounds per bushel, on an acre; he had sown fifteen years, I think, and only one partial failure. It will not, though, I think, on good alluvial land.

I have seen *buck-wheat*, only in two situations; it was as fine as I saw in South Carolina, but I think not equal to Pennsylvania growth, if I remember aright; but years have since intervened, and more than years—hard times.

Barley, I have not seen growing, though it is, by two persons any how; one of them, a native of South Carolina, says it is good, and that all stock will refuse wheat, rye and oats, for it when green.

The *cow pea*, will just out-grow any thing of that article, so far that you can't tell; what do you think of 200 bushels per acre? "Don't believe it!" Nor I, though I have heard it so stated. At all events, it is easily produced; and if planted early enough, would yield bushel for bushel with corn.

The *ground nut*, or *garden pea*, or *pindar*, is another crop, if planted early will yield astonishingly; I think it about equal to any food for hogs; it will yield an immense return of rich food, and will serve to amuse those porkers, as well as keep them out of mischief, and warm them in winter, by employing them to dig them.

The *horse bean* will return a handsome yield; I have gathered 230 beans from one stalk, a dry season, and by the first of June.

3d. *Tobacco*, was once the staple article of Mississippi; was exported largely—and some folks say—"if old folks, long time ago, had not got to *cheating*, we might yet have been so employed." Though I guess not. I have seen a few lots, of an acre or more, and judging, "from off a horse," it looked equally well, with the truck, in old Virginia or Kentucky. Though I could tell better, if in form of honey dew, or cavendish, or gold leaf.

4th. *Indigo*, was once, also, an article of export; is made yet, somewhere in the State, but not much, I reckon; and then, way somewhere, where the sun never rises.

5th. *Potatoes*. To satisfy yourself this is a potato country, especially for the sweet po-

tato, I would ask you, to see the returns from the fields of my friends, G. or M. I know well that your State and New Jersey are justly celebrated for this article; I have read of both, and think we can equal you in quantity and quality, at least; we make them on good land, without any care, pruning, or manure; and on land that is good for 25 or 30 bushels of corn, or 1,000 to 1,200 pounds of cotton. I have never measured the product, but doubt not, the information I have from two persons; that 500 bushels have been made to the acre. One of them says he made 460 bushels, and was not particular in gathering the small ones; I have seen them weigh from 4 to 11 pounds. They are easily kept here, many having two crops on the table at once, to use an Irishism; really, only *some* from the two.

The Irish potato, is a great producer here, affording us for summer use as large, and as fine as I have seen even from auld Ireland—(not that mealy quality, though.) We do all our business here with as little trouble as possible, and consequently never save the potato, only planting for present use. Though I have known them kept all year, and planted in the spring. Those who have tried, say by letting the grass grow over, so as to afford a slight protection in winter, they will keep. Some Rohans I had last year, were dug up this spring and planted; they promise equally well as the others. No doubt they will remain in the ground and come up in the spring, or winter.

6th. *Rice*, grows finely wherever I have seen it tried; and should our staple,—*cotton*, decline much more, I have no doubt the "low country planter," will soon find, we can grow this article profitably. I may forget, but think a friend assured me, he had gathered 40 bushels per acre, and cut afterwards over a ton of excellent crab grass hay; that I saw, and never saw better, (the hay, I alluded to.) I have never seen fair rice grow on an overflowed spot, without a working.

7th. *Hay and grasses.* On this subject, I am somewhat uncertain, for our trials have been so recent, and often negligently made; but from my own experience alone, I am induced to say, by the aid of this, great good will be effected. Of crab grass, I can speak positive; I have measured it, full five feet high; and believe the gentleman alluded to towards the close of the last section, has cut two tons per acre, *cured;* and of a most excellent quality—this cannot be done every year.

I have *lucerne*, at the writing of this, that measures over 40 inches, on a piece of land, cleared fourteen years, dry and never was rich; high land.

Red clover, now standing near two feet high, in bloom; and though no rain since the 26th of April, more than a mere light shower, on a high, dry, thin piece of land, looks thrifty. *Herd's grass* and *timothy*, grazed too close to speak of, more than its thriftiness—grazed all winter—sowed in September. *Guinea*, *Gama*, *Bermuda* and *Musquete*, and all Southern grasses; the three first, I have, will grow on any soil; 1st and 3rd requiring sun and air; the first requiring culture for a year or two, but will return a crop on good land every fifteen to twenty days. Gama, I have had for six years; is not easily killed by the spade. Bermuda and Musquete (or kete) are the grasses for the South. The first grows any where, out of the shade, poor or rich, sandy or clay; affords a fine hay, or an abundant pasturage; as we used to say here, to show our acquaintance—"I never knew any thing else" in that country. Of the *Muskete*, I can only refer you to Col. Carter, of Alabama; Col. Hampton, of Columbia; and Dr. John Davis, of Monticello, S. C. They all speak in glowing terms of its quality. Of the first named gentleman, I have accounts from two eye witnesses: both laud it, as Kentuckians do blue grass.

Millet grass, I have grown two years; one year, I weighed accurately, as the bulk, &c., would permit, and am confident I cured at the rate of 8,000 pounds of hay per acre; it was rather large and coarse, though; grown on rich land.

Millet corn, or *Egyptian millet*, will now bear the hook, although late planted on thin land; I would not say what it seems capable of doing—but Mr. Hubermont, in his life time, (of Columbia, S. C.,) never grew finer, on his manured lots, than I grow here.

The *pea vine*, will feed horses, cattle and mules all the winter, if care be taken in handling, and alone, keep them in fine condition; the quantity that can be saved per acre, depends pretty much on time of planting and the way one goes about sowing—in any way, though, it is great.

While here, allow me to ask, why is it that individuals who make speeches about log cabins, or on some political humbuggery, are placed before the people in every paper? are we ever to bend the knee to demagogues? Well, such men as I have taken the liberty to name, in connection with the addresses delivered by Gen. McDuffie, another of your State; or others equally worthy, as J. S. Skinner, J. M. Garnett, Solon Robinson, et multis aliis, (and many others,) pass away without a thought; because the humble walks of agriculture have been their theme? Is not the man who points out the way to feed stock, as deserving of praise, as the importer? Pardon this digression, I could not indeed pass by those good and truly useful, if not great men, without tendering my thanks and respects.

8th. *Wine and silk.* Though both are luxuries, are deserving of our attention; the

quantity imported, *is not much short of one-half of the amount of cotton exported;* and are now receiving some attention in this State. Enough at all events to warrant me in saying they can be made profitable. Mr. Isaac Dunbar, near Natchez, a wealthy planter, has been growing the grape, 15 to 20 years; has made wine, that was considered good, at a late fair in Washington, Mississippi. Mr. Benton, near Vicksburg, has been growing the vine, for years; his wine is also highly spoken of. Our woods, hills, and "valleys low," are almost covered, (to speak with the license of poets,) with some three kinds, though neither of any account—only showing the vine is a native.

Silk, is made in a small way by several of my neighbors; and from their trials, as well as my own, I believe it simple, and very profitable. It will be made through this country, to some amount, if cotton keeps at present rates. The cocoons are easily made; the only difficulty, is the ant—they seem to be able to "snuff them in the breeze;" at least can find them in a room fourteen feet above the earth.

The mulberry—multicaulis—will grow five to ten feet from a root, or even a bud, in one season. I have them growing in a field where they have stood two winters. I commenced feeding 26th of March; at that time foliage large, and an abundance. The black mulberry has been fed to the worms, silk selling at $6,00 per pound, I think, though I almost forget. I am satisfied, if a profit of 20 per cent. can be made in Cincinnati or Philadelphia, that we ought to make 50 per cent. Because, an old woman, who is only able to feed chickens and children, can give them any attention, with some little shavers, too small to more than pick up chips, to assist her—at least, until cocoons are ready to make up. Here is an important field open, to our fair dames, they can make "pin money," and be patriotic both; at the same time make profitable, those that are an expense, or incumbrance, and give the young habits of industry.

9th. *Fruits.* From my own knowledge, I can speak of but few; but the subject has had my attention, for years, and I have culled from the experience of friends and acquaintances the most I can say.

If *Peaches*, are better any where, or trees less affected by disease—I have never been there. I have seen them here, as large, as luscious, as full crops, as great a variety, as I ever saw, North or South. I have trees, in bearing thirteen years; they are healthy and vigorous—how old they are I know not, but fifteen years any how. I have them ripening, from about the middle, (or earlier,) of June, until in October; and only about 300 standard trees at that.

The *fig*, cannot be beaten, unless further South; I know they are finer on the Mississippi, near New Orleans. They are "good enough for poor folks" here. The tree seldom injured, unless the tender varieties. I know them to have passed through the last six or eight winters safely.

The varieties of the *plum* and *cherry*, not sufficiently tried; of the first, we have the *yellow* and *red Chickasaw*, fine and plenty—some two kinds of wild plums called *hog plums*, never fail bearing. The wild cherry is also in abundance; no improved kind have I ever seen bear—though I have the tree. I make no question from what I have seen, that all the plums will succeed here; I have some five varieties, not in bearing yet.

Apples, can certainly be produced in this country; I have raised a few, and have a few varieties. Two farmers, that I have good reason to believe, have each a good orchard, with a few varieties, they say, each are as good as from "whence" they came are from North Carolina, the other near those "four holes," in lower part of South Carolina. A gentleman from Tennessee, gave me a large delicious apple, grew on his farm in Hinds, Mississippi.

Pears, I have only heard of on two farms, said to be good; I have had them several years, though not in bearing.

Nectarine, (I should have put with peaches,) I never saw the fruit so fine, as here, far more luscious than I thought was its nature; free from that gummy appearance I have seen. One farmer in Rankin, has a number; another in Hinds, has quite an orchard. I learn they do well, equally, as peaches.

Apricot, not much known; it will do well, so says an aged, and highly respected and esteemed informant.

Quince, are never failing.

Raspberry, *strawberry*, *currant* and *gooseberry*. I have grown all, though the two latter I lost entirely, owing to want of care in an agent. The first are really fine; no better of some varieties could be. Of the second, Dr. Parham, of Warren, and Dr. D. P. Harrison, of Raymond, have them in good perfection; and said by many to be superior to any thing they ever saw. They are natives of our prairies and even woodlands, though small as in nature, yet if cultivated will double their size.

Blackberry, dewberry, hickorynut, walnut, hazlenut, grow plentifully in the State, as many other native fruits.

10th. Just in proportion to the care and good management of the GARDEN, is it fine here. We have the *early yorke* and *sugar loaf cabbage* heads even now, and will have a succession of headed cabbage until next March; of course, not of those. We have not, since June 4th, been without cabbage head, until seeding.

Beans, beets, carrots, &c. &c. &c., are as fine here, as could be any where. Turnips,

either for field or garden, grow remarkably fine; not, probably, producing into the thousands, of bushels, but most assuredly into the hundreds.

11th. Of *Bees*, I shall only say, that I have known over seventy pounds taken from one hive, and that the only thing necessary, is to take care of them; and make up your mind to be kilt, at least every time you save a swarm. If we had stingless bees, I could say more, but preferring molasses, I take no interest in the critters, though I have a few stands.

Now, sir, suppose, with the abundant advantages so far offered, that my fellow citizens could be aroused to a full sense of their situation, and would set to work, right old fashioned, what could be done? Suppose we would avail ourselves of all the various improved implements; such as good ploughs, cutting boxes, stock-mills, &c., enabling us to feed cheaper and better, and do more and better work; then make use of all spare time in hauling in leaves &c., make a quantity of manure, haul out, spread, and plough it in deep,—with necessary buildings, a fondness that way—could we be beaten in

Animals! for they cost us compartively nothing in the rearing.

We feed no description of animal except the *horse*, and *mule*, nor indeed, do all of us feed them, through necessity, unless we work them. You will as a matter of course think it, no wonder we buy meat, but the reason we buy, is not that we are compelled to, on account of any difficulty, or great expense, but solely from a want, of that farmer-like management, that is a characteristic of farmers every where else—the fact is, a living has been too easily made.

Horses and mules, can be raised here, to an advantage, if we would only try, not subject to any more diseases than elsewhere, and but for the buffalo gnat, not to any more difficulties.

Our woods and swamps, yet affording an abundance of green food, for a great portion of the year, especially if there were fewer cattle.

Cattle, are raised in large herds, without any cost save salt and attention to herding occasionally. I have killed a bullock weighing 725 pounds, out of the woods, in fair order. There are too many of this description of stock; one half the number, if received more attention, would be more profitable; they also require, and must receive crosses, or they will be, soon, of little value.

Sheep, are raised entirely in the woods, requiring only salt, and some preventive of a fatal disease—brought on by dogs! no other disease have I known, and I have had an average of fifty head for some nine years. Have all unprofitable dogs killed off, and we will export wool! Our mutton, is proverbially as fine as is in the West; I have weighed them at twelve months old, when sheared, from 75 to 94 pounds each, gross—reared on woods pastures and very short commons, at that; for I have to keep in an enclosure. I have sheared four pounds per fleece, weighed—no deterioration in my opinion.

Hogs, are now raised in Mississippi, of every description, from the "land pike" and "alligator" breed, to the high finished Berkshire, and even Dr. Martin's aristocratic *White* Berkshire, has found its way into our country. We will this year raise enough for home consumption, or at least enough for all inland counties. To show the facility with which they can be raised, I will state, that I have killed out of the woods, *fat* hogs, weighing over 200 pounds nett, never having eaten an ear of corn. They, in certain sections, are raised entirely in the woods, subsisting on multon cane, (the young stiff cane.) nimble will, a grass growing very luxuriantly in open situations, resembling somewhat Bermuda grass, and on roots. If a good mast year, (a good crop of acorns, muscadines, beech nuts, &c.,) our hogs get very fat. In the summer, a few pens of cotton seed, with water near at hand, will keep them fat. In the winter, the gleanings from cornfields, and the pea and pumpkin field, will put them in such a condition that but little corn is required, to put them in the pickle tub, very handsomely. We can raise hogs as cheap as any set of farmers can any where, for we can raise a full crop of cotton, without at all interfering with the most abundant resources for double the meat we require; all that is wanting is care and perseverance.

The present introduction of improved stock will do much towards making us entirely independent in that particular; we will naturally take to a pretty thing of whatsoever description it may be, and the improved stock certainly merit that appellation. In my own limited knowledge, I can count up some ten to twenty stallions, most of them thorough bred, and some few, are fine—a number of good mares; one gentleman has not short of forty jennys. Of improved bulls, I know of some fifteen to twenty, (in my own neighborhood some half dozen,) consisting of Durham, Devon and Ayrshire, though not all, of the first, thorough bred—with these alone, a vast change will be apparent in a few years. We also have some fifty to one hundred cows of those breeds.

Of improved sheep, the Bakewell and Southdown's, are the only improved I know of, and far too few for our interest, as a farming community.

Now, bear in mind, these are only the stock that comes within the limited knowledge of one, who travels as little as any one—no doubt there are a greater number. I neglected in saying, in the *hog* line, I can lay my hand (if I were near enough) on three men, all citizens of this county, who number some sixty Berkshire sows.

Now, sir, with these resources, and even more than I have named, is it not a natural shame, that we should buy riding, carriage and work horses; beef, butter, (with not always milk for table use, which I believe some farmers would have bought, in the days of bank credit, on the score of—cheaper to buy, than to raise,) all of our mules, pork, bacon and lard; mutton if we ever use; all woollen and cotton goods, corn, &c.; in short, every thing? The facility of living, the vile dependance on the cotton crop, the notion of being above attending to little matters, and the subserviency to the customs of our forefathers, has caused this, and has fed sheriffs and officers, as well as those from other States, and Territories, that feel no interest in common. The desire to see my country disenthralled, from all extraneous dependance, to see her once more proudly rear her head, above the paltry abuses of those who are no better, and a belief in the necessity of making "one long and strong pull," may probably give some truth to the remark often made—"that P. is deranged on agriculture." I would then say, make all due allowances, and above all, come and examine for yourself.

That we can make more of the supplies than are necessary for our wants, if we consult the result, I have the word of many others; for if we would make one-third or one-fourth less cotton; say reduce our crop to 275,000 or 300,000 bales, bestow more attention on gathering, handling and pressing, we would realize, the same return, and have, say one-sixth more labor, to apply to supplies—what would be the result? We would be prepared to furnish

Manufactories with all the supplies required, at a fair price—to make much of our goods within our own limits—at least our negro clothing and cotton bagging.

We have fine water power, and much fine timber in the north and east and northeast of this State, that is "wasting its fragrance on the desert air,"—water power that never fails, and a climate so mild, that machinery need not be stopped for ice, nor for the peculiar state of the atmosphere, that affects machinery at the North. Besides the expense of transportation, both ways, commission, for looking at, selling, stealing, and a forty etceteras, attending on this mode of sending off the raw material and bringing back the wrought fabric.

The certainty of water power, the climate, supplies at the spot, market at hand, and our peculiar operatives—no "turning out" for higher wages—when once learnt, always there, and much of the labor a clear saving; especially are these to be considered where, in that very section, wheat, corn, beef and pork, are made to dispose of, and the market for cotton some 100 or 150 miles, over roads not yet macadamized. Many think all this is unnecessary; but I think, if we only save by our former method, a few paltry dollars at best, that if we make every thing we require at home, and only sell a small quantity at a good price, that we will be no worse off. And another consideration to the American husbandman, is, to be prepared for any emergency; we are a peaceable people, delighting more in peace and plenty, than in "blood and thunder." It therefore behooves us, to be independent, "and in peace prepare for war."

I now approach, with reluctance, the last branch of my subject. For the

"*Mineral resources*" of our State is as little known to me, as it is in Africa. Our Legislators, with a niggardly parsimony, ill becoming men, who spend hundreds in listening to some pettifogger give *his* opinions on the federal constitution, or consume the credit of the State in censuring some individual beyond their petty missiles.

Appeal after appeal has been made, not only to that body, but to individuals and the community, to have a Tophographical and Geological survey of the State made; but thus far, nothing has been done. Let a petition be laid before that body, to render the darkness of the law invisible, or to protect mechanics and doctors, "a Rowland for an Oliver," it be either done, or enough money spent, in talking of its importance, to pay for the survey.

This *Right Honorable* body appropriates thousands, of the farmer's labor, to erecting a gorgeous pile as a monument to the recklessness of law makers, and build a Governor's house (for show) at a cost of over $20,000—(I doubt not)—employ a State architect, and propose to furnish this mansion with $2,000. This latter, puts me in mind of a schoolmate rigging off his $30 silver watch with a $25 seal, and a $60 chain—the external appearance of grandeur and glory. How long the farmers of Mississippi will bear this, exceeds my knowing.

We only know there are vast beds of lime stone, suitable for building purposes, and manuring—some two or three excellent marl beds; some stone, not exactly suitable for jails, as Hinds county can prove; but of which our gorgeous "pile" in Jackson, is built. And I think if ever a survey be made, that we will find iron ore, near enough to navigable sources.

At all events we can save the raw material, for our shoes, &c. in abundance; can ship wool for our winter wear, if any trial were made; and during inclement weather could make a portion of our cotton goods, on every farm; stock ploughs, for the best of white oak timber abounds every where along water courses.

Now, sir, I have inflicted on you near on to a dozen mortal long pages, and presume you to be tired, and still an unbeliever—then, come and look for yourself, and if you be not satisfied, making some allowances for zeal, that this be truth, then I will acknowledge error.

Please bear with the occasional digression, and believe me, sincerely, your friend and old schoolmate, M. W. P.

Portrait of the Duke of Norfolk.

The annexed engraving is a portrait of a thorough bred Durham bull, the "Duke of Norfolk," the property of J. H. James, Esq., of Urbana, Champaign county, Ohio.

Duke of Norfolk, was imported by the Ohio Company, and at their sale of cattle, on the 20th of October, 1836, was purchased by Mr. Robert Stewart, of Ross county, Ohio, for $1255, who afterwards sold him at private sale, to General Vance and J. H. James, for $1400.

Duke of Norfolk was calved March 21, 1835; got by Norfolk, 2377; d. Modesty, by Magnet, 2241; g. d. Prudence, by Don Juan, 1923; g. g. d. Modesty, by Sir Anthony, 1435; g. g. g. d. by Romulus, 564; g. g. g. g. d. by Snowball, 1463; g. g. g. g. d. Miss Rose, by Wellington, 684; g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Wynyard; g. g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Simon.

It is useless pursuing his pedigree farther; he is an animal whose character is established, and needs no comment from us. Our portrait gives his general form and appearance, which will contrast with most that have appeared in our columns. Mr. James has a considerable herd of Durhams, some of which are fine; he has also a breed of cattle he designates "Mad River Cows," the peculiar excellence of which consists in their milking properties, not so much in the quantity as the quality, which is exceedingly rich, making for the amount an extraordinary quantity of butter—they have also another property, that of milking two years in succession without having a calf in the interim. They are not a large animal; they have a peculiar rise in the middle of the back which Mr. James by careful breeding has endeavored to do away with, but has not as yet wholly succeeded in accomplishing. We want but few such men as Mr. James to make agricultural employment a very different thing to what it now is. Too many make great professions, and there stop. We were much gratified in examining some wet prairie land on a farm adjacent to Urbana, and upon which it is Mr. J.'s intention to propagate the cranberry, some of which he has growing in his garden, apparently in a very healthy condition. There is no doubt but this will be a profitable investment. The ground is well adapted to it. The American Farmer states that a Captain Hall, of Barnstable, Massachusetts, has successfully, for years, cultivated this plant, raising an average crop of seventy bushels to the acre, which are said to be worth from $1,00 to $1,50 per bushel. We were much pleased with our trip through this part of Ohio, which is well adapted to grazing, and beautifully watered for the purpose. We were at the house of Governor Vance, and had the satisfaction of an examination of his herd, where we saw his bull, Santa Anna, purchased by him at the Ohio Company's sale, in 1837. Santa Anna is well bred, but does not show those fine points looked for by critical judges of short horn stock, his great defect being a falling off or sloping from the hips to the tail. The governor, however, has some fine cattle—amongst which we may notice two yoke of Devon oxen, his working team, which are really fine animals.

To Salt Butter.

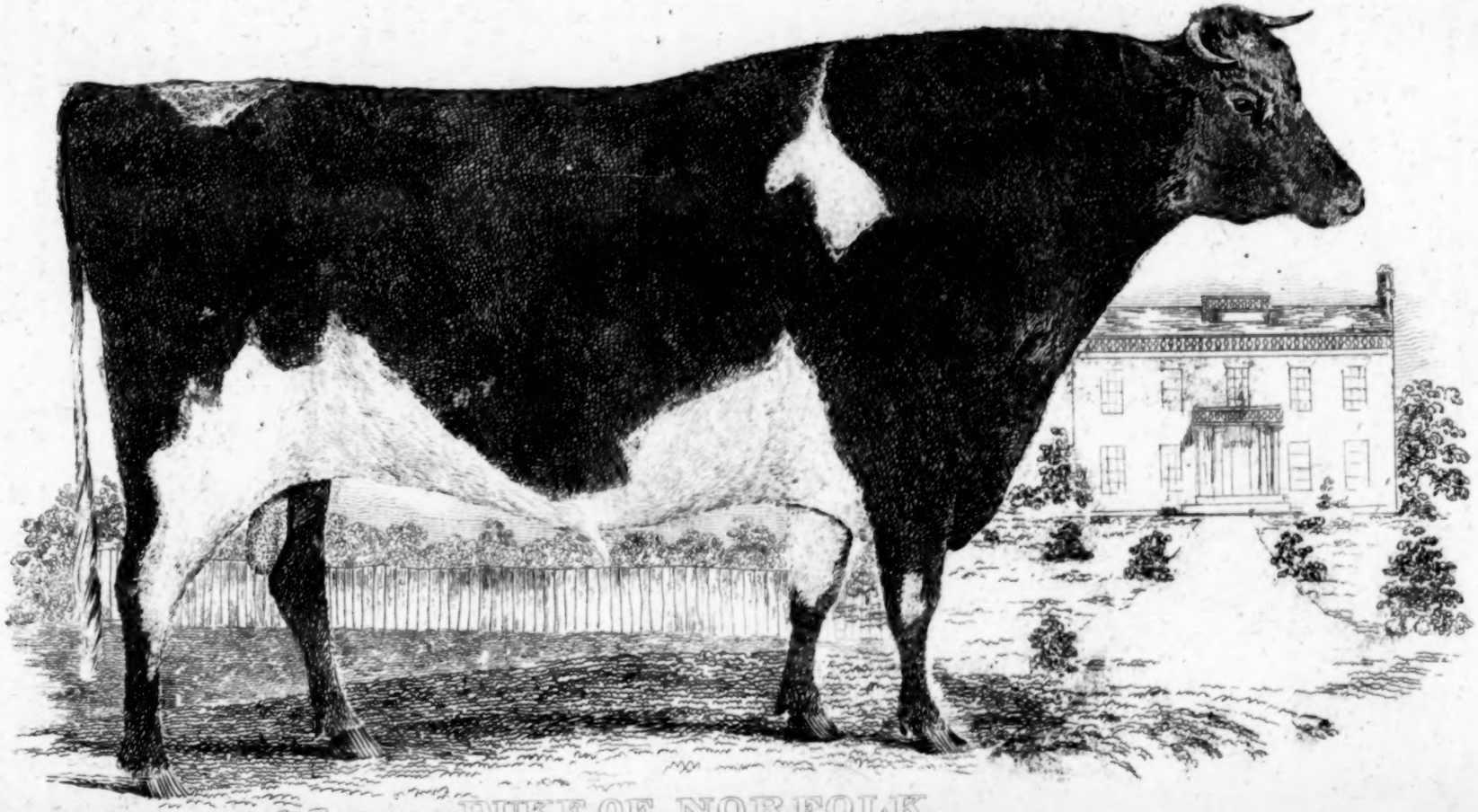
Beat well up together in a marble mortar, half a pound of common salt with four ounces of powdered loaf-sugar; to every pound of newly made butter, the milk being well drawn off by beating, put an ounce of the mixed powder; incorporate it well, put the butter into pots for keeping. In about a month, not before, it will be fit to use, and it will continue for ten years as good as butter newly salted.

Soaking Corn to feed Horses.

One of the best farmers in the vicinity of Baltimore, saves one-third of his corn, by soaking it before he feeds it to his horses. He places two hogsheads in his cellar, secure from the frost, and fills them with ears of corn, and pours on water to cover it. When well soaked, he feeds it to his horses, and when one cask is empty, he fills it again and feeds from the other. By the time one is empty, the corn in the other is well soaked. The cobs are so well soaked that the horses eat the whole, and they require only two-thirds as much corn when prepared in this way, and there is no doubt that this preparation and the eating of the cob with the corn, renders the food more wholesome. Farmer's Journal.

Feeding Poultry.

Professor Gregory, of Aberdeen, in a letter to a friend, observes, "as I suppose you keep poultry, I may tell you that it has been ascertained, that if you mix with their food a sufficient quantity of egg-shells or chalk, which they eat greedily, they will lay, *cæteris paribus*, twice or thrice as many eggs as before. A well-fed fowl is disposed to lay a vast number of eggs, but cannot do so without the materials for the shells, however nourishing in other respects her food may be; indeed, a fowl fed on food and water, free from corbonate of lime, and not finding any in the soil, or in the shape of mortar, which they often eat off the walls, would lay no eggs at all, with the best will in the world."



DUKE OF NORFOLK

The property of J. H. James Esqr of Orbana Ohio.

Dr. Thomas White's Silk Machine.

Mr. Editor:

You will excuse a plain farmer, for intruding upon your time, and with your permission, on your columns, when he assures you that the prosperity of our common country is the only object he has in view, in so doing. Being in your city, on Friday, I was induced to visit the Mechanics' Fair, and was much gratified with almost every thing I saw, especially those that are destined to become eminently useful to our country. Of this class, Dr. Thomas White's silk machine, stands pre-eminent; I had heard much of it, and had seen the high encomiums passed on it by General Talmadge, of New York; and learned that it had borne off the highest prize, (a gold medal,) at the late Fair of the American Institute; but like one of former days, I had to confess the half had not been told me. On one side the machine, an empty reel was revolving as though it would invite the delicate fingers of some handy female to apply the fibres of the cocoon and let it perform its duty. (The reeling, or first process not being in operation.) On the other side, a spool that had been filled with most beautiful and evenly reeled silk, was revolving round, giving off its thread, which was taken up on spools with great speed; these spools when filled, are placed on spindles in front of the machine; the thread attached to bobbins above, and there the silk receives its first twist. The silk, from two of these bobbins, is then run off on to another spool, which is put down on to spindles that revolve the opposite way from the first, and is wound up a second time, finished in the most approved manner, viz., reeled, wound, twisted, doubled, and twisted again; all by turning a crank.

I could not but admire the simplicity of the various operations of it, and contemplate the great advantage it is destined to be of to this country at no distant day. It finishes the silk either for the loom or needle, in but little more time than is commonly required to reel it, and makes it worth from $8, to 10, per pound, instead of $4 or 5. Every farmer should be possessed of one, and set his daughters to preparing their own silks, as our mothers and sisters used to prepare their own linen. I have three daughters that are old enough to raise and manufacture silk for themselves, and they must hereafter do it or do without. I have heretofore viewed the silk business as a visionary project, but from what I have this day seen of this machine, and of the domestic silk goods in the fair, and learned of Dr. White, I am convinced that I can clothe my family in silk, taking the amount of labor as standard of value, at a less expense than I can raise wheat or pork and sell them and buy cotton goods with the proceeds. I therefore intend to plant five acres in mulberry next spring, and give the business a fair trial, and would advise every farmer in the west to do likewise. When I first heard of this machine I understood it was from Tennessee, and it is true it was invented there, but by our old neighbor of Mt. Pleasant, in Jefferson co., with whose enterprise and indefatigable exertions in the silk cause we have been long acquainted. He had the first silk wove (amidst the scoffs and ridicule of that community, for many of them thought he was going crazy,) that I ever heard of being done in Ohio, and thereby laid the foundation of the only successful silk factory that is entitled to the name of factory in the United States. His long experience in the business entitles his opinions and testimony to great weight and credit. I learn from him that one young woman can, with ease, attend worms enough to raise from six to ten bushels of cocoons; he has known some do more. That each bushel, properly prepared for the loom, will make from sixteen to twenty-five or even more yards of goods. That she will be about thirty-five days in raising it, and about two days on each bushel preparing it for the loom, say twenty days on ten bushels. At a moderate calculation it could all be raised and prepared for the loom in sixty days, female labor; and when prepared will make from 160 to 200 or 250 yards of good substantial goods; such as Mr. Gill is exhibiting here, and selling at prices ranging from $1,25, to $2,00 per yard.

I will now appeal to my brother farmers, and query, what can we employ our daughters at that will yield a better profit? I will suppose they will only raise five bushels each, my three daughters will raise fifteen, and suppose it only makes twelve yards to the bushel, thus producing stuff for 180 yards, it will be the best employment we have had for our females since the spinning wheels were laid by. Every one that knows Mr. Gill as well as you and I do, knows that he never follows a business unless it yields a profit, and a large one at that. This fact alone ought to encourage such of us as know it, to engage in the business without delay, and I am pleased to learn that one of the mos-

eminent physicians of this city, is about to get a machine, buy in cocoons, and set his family to work. His example will undoubtedly have a very salutary influence far beyond the limits of your city. In fact I know no reason why the Queen of the West should not take the lead in this laudable enterprise. What is there to hinder a large establishment from being gotten up here immediately, that would give employment to 50 or 100 looms? There is silk in all abundance in the country. I learn from a late number of the Nashville Whig, that one lady in that vicinity had raised over 100 bushels this season, and from a gentleman who is now on a visit to this city with a view of procuring silk machinery, that more than two thousand bushels can be bought in that market. God speed the ladies of Tennessee, they intend to be independent, and assist in making their country so. Shall our Ohio ladies lag behind? Heaven forbid! Let the Queen of the West do her duty, and the State will be raised to her destined eminence. A PLAIN FARMER.

Sun Flower Oil.

We have had some inquiries as to the method of making sun-flower oil, and the quantity a bushel of seed will make, and the uses to which it can be applied.

1. *Method of Making.*—The same as that of linseed, except that the seed must first be hulled, or its hard envelope taken off. This is done by machinery with great ease. If ground with the hull, not half the quantity of oil can be obtained as when it is hulled. Any press that will extract the oil of linseed will do for sun-flower seed.

2. *Quantity per Bushel.*—Mr. Mann made some experiments which are recorded in the New England Farmer, in which only half a gallon per bushel was obtained, and the project was abandoned. He did not hull the seed; hence the failure. C. A. Barnitz, near Baltimore, on the contrary, obtained a gallon of fine oil from a bushel; but his seed was hulled, and none was lost by the saturation of the dry covering. When well managed, a gallon may be counted upon with certainty.

3. *Uses.*—It makes a very good oil for lamps, burning clearly and without offensive smell. It is found to be well adapted for painting, spreading smooth and drying with facility. For the table, most prefer it to olive oil, being cheaper, and having a more agreeable flavor.

We may here add, that the quantity of seed produced on an acre will vary much, having ranged from twenty to seventy-five bushels. The editor of the Baltimore Farmer thinks that the average on good corn land may be stated at fifty bushels.

We have no data from which to answer the inquiries of our correspondent at Canton, in regard to the quantity of oil produced by hemp seed. Hemp seed oil possesses many of the qualities of linseed oil, and doubtless might be extracted with equal facility.—Albany Cultivator.

Things a Farmer ought not to do.

1. A farmer should never undertake to cultivate more land than he can do thoroughly; half tilled land is growing poorer; when tilled land is constantly improving.

2. A farmer should never keep more cattle, horses, sheep or hogs, than he can keep in good order; an animal in high order the first of December is already half wintered.

3. A farmer should never depend on his neighbor, for what he can by care and good management produce on his own farm; he should never beg fruit while he can plant trees, nor borrow tools when he can make or buy: a high authority has said the borrower is a servant to the lender.

4. The farmer should never be so immersed in political matters as to forget to sow his wheat, dig his potatoes and bank up his cellar; nor should he be so inattentive to them as to be ignorant of those great questions of national and state policy which will always agitate, more or less, a free people.

5. A farmer should shun the doors of a bank as he would the approach of the plague or cholera; banks are for traders and men of speculations, and theirs is a business with which farmers have little to do.

6. A farmer should never be ashamed of his calling; we know that no man can be entirely independent, yet the farmer should remember that if any one is said to possess that enviable distinction, he is the man.

7. No farmer should allow the reproach of neglected education to lie against himself or family; if knowledge is power, the beginning of it should be early and deeply laid in the district school.

8. A farmer should never use ardent spirits as a drink; if, while undergoing severe fatigue and the hard labor of the summer, he would enjoy robust health, let him be temperate in all things.

9. A farmer should never refuse a fair price for any thing he wants to sell; we have known a man who had several hundred bushels of wheat to dispose of, refuse $1, because he wanted $1,06, and after keeping his wheat six months was glad to get 75 cts. for it.

10. A farmer should never allow his wood house to be empty of wood during the summer season; if he does, when winter comes, in addition to cold fingers, he must expect to encoun-

ter the chilling looks of his wife, and perhaps be compelled in a series of lectures, to learn that the man who burns green wood has not mastered the A B C of domestic economy.

11. A farmer should never allow a window to be filled with red cloaks, tattered coats, and old hats; if he does, he will most assuredly acquire the reputation of a man who tarries long at the whiskey, leaving his wife and children to starve at home. Manhattan Telegraph.

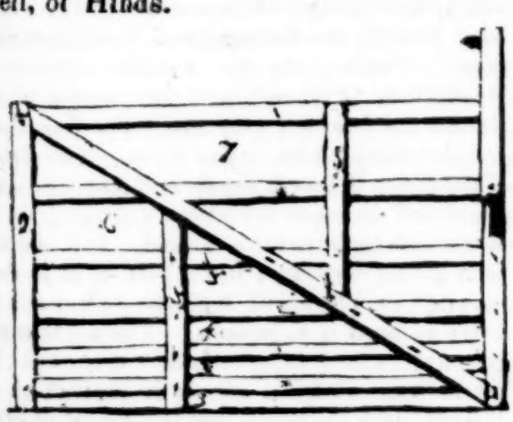
Gates and Fastenings.

We are much at a loss in all our country for good farm gates, many preferring the old fashioned draw bars to the gate; some have slip gaps, others get along without either. Where any man goes in for farming, he should have gates to every field, and to each lot; and for a series of years taken together a good gate will cost less than the bars, and certainly looks more farmer like.

We have seen a variety, have used them of different construction, and prefer the one herewith described; being no hand at drawing, except on a bank, or a commission house, we may not be understood; but with the aid of friend Foster, hope to be so.

We prefer the entire gate made out of white oak; it endures well, is heavy, and will move easily, shut, (if well hung,) of itself.

Rails out of 3 by 4 stuff, brace and centre pieces out of 3 inches square stuff, and the slats 4 by 1 inch. Although to make this gate in first rate style requires a good workman, yet a good one can be made on the farm, as it has been, by field hands. We first saw this gate, at the farm, or plantation rather, of Major Hugh Campbell, of Hinds.



1. Slats 9 feet long, 3 by 1 inch.
2. Front rail or style, 5 ft. 6 in. long, 3 by 4 inches.
3. Back rail or style, 6 ft. 6 in. long, 3 by 4 inches.
4. Brace or rail mortised into rails above and below slats, 3 by 3 inches.
5. Upright pieces, 3 by 3 inches.

The four last are mortised through for slats spaces (as in the sketch,) between slats.

In addition to the above, we would advise the mortises in the two rails, and consequently the tenon, not to exceed 3 inches by 1 (of course,) for the extra inch of the slat, if well made, will also serve as additional bracing.

Fastenings for gates are so numerous, that it is needless to mention much—except where stock are, use fastenings that require the hand to open, so that by pushing, or lifting, as with ordinary latches, cattle and such like, cannot learn a bad habit. Two kinds are used here that will answer pretty well; a latch that stands up at an angle of 45° projecting above the gate, is good where horsemen pass through; but to consider one's own interest, an iron piece of 6 inches long, 1 inch wide, ¼ thick with 4 holes to screw on to gate, (after let in its thickness,) with a pin well welded on ½ inch thick, 1 to ½ long,—projecting—to put on the front rail next to side of post—then have a piece of iron 1 inch wide, ⅜ thick, and 3 inches long, with a hole in upper part so as to hang easy into a ¼ iron pin, driven into post; so the pin, when driven in, can be well and strongly fixed into gate post; then a piece cut out of post to permit this clapper to swing free and yet to catch at the bottom, so cannot be pushed out. Much of these things require a figure to explain, and that is not our fort. P.

Weevils, Owls and Old Shoes.

The South Western Farmer publishes the following:

To Destroy Weevils.—Place in the middle of your barn, or granary, a large iron pan of burning charcoal, closing the doors and windows tightly. Cut three or four old shoes into small bits and throw them upon the fire, to which may be added the hoofs of horses, &c. The fire should be kept up for three or four hours. The strong odor of this smoke will infallibly kill the weevil, &c. This process should be repeated every year before housing your grain. It also drives away rats and mice."

Gen. Cowles Mead once told us that he lived at a place that was infested with *owls*. They kept up such a clamor that he could not sleep, and as for poultry they made a clean sweep. The General fired at them—halloo'd—resorted to a dozen different expedients in vain; but finally got rid of them by burning *a few old shoes* every night or two.

From the Albany Cultivator.

Sheep—Items of Summer Management.

Messrs. Editors:—It is unfortunately the fact that too many farmers suppose sheep require but little attention during the season of pasturage, and can secure an adequate supply of flesh to carry them through the winter, if left to "shirk" for themselves. This is a very great error; and the baneful consequences of such a course are very obvious in thousands of instances in the months of March and April, in the numerous premature deaths that follow. It is an axiom "that stock well summered are half wintered," which every thrifty farmer will hold in recollection and practise upon; and it is especially applicable to all who have large flocks to manage, yet not much less so to others. Sheep, with the exception of the English varieties which are great devourers, do not require what is usually understood as a *luxuriant* pasture, but short, yet at the same time an abundance, growing on dry elevated lands, rather than bottoms; the latter, where sheep range upon them wholly, originating, very often, foot rot, as well as other diseases.

But having an abundance to eat is not the only point necessary to secure health and flesh; *it is changing the flock often from one field to another.* To every intelligent observing farmer the fact is well known, that no domestic animal is possessed of olfatory organs more keen and sensitive than the sheep; and consequently, if a flock is kept too long upon a field, and it matters not how good the pasture may be, it becomes tainted, is rejected, and the sheep fail rather than thrive. Whenever the flock is seen in a restless state, nosing here and there, without eating, rest assured, it is high time they were removed, even if the pasture where changed to should be shorter or less abundant. I can assure all that I practise most rigidly what is here preached. Early in the spring, after ceasing wholly to fodder, I rarely suffer a flock to remain on a field beyond two or three days, and the balance of the season, change as often as once in five or seven days; depending, of course, upon the supply of grass which each field may afford, but never deferring it longer than a week under any circumstances.

It must be obvious in order to carry out this policy, that the fields of a sheep-grazing farm should be small, and the flocks likewise. My fields vary in size from eight to fifteen acres; and I never permit over 100 sheep to herd together, at any season—at least, not after one year old. From long experience and close observation, I am so well satisfied that small fields and frequent change of pasture is the true policy, I am willing to make a pledge, that 125 sheep can be kept in *better health and condition* by its adoption than 100 can in disregard of it, *on the same number of acres;* and I doubt not very many of your readers will concur in this statement.

It is perhaps not generally known that no domestic animals seek for so great a variety of food as sheep. They will occasionally eat of every plant and noxious weed that grows upon the soil where they range, and especially aromatics. This fondness for variety, the practical sheep-master has often seen manifested in the avidity with which his flock will devour the leaves of the milk-weed, and even burdock—indeed of almost everything, if cured with the hay. There is true philosophy in this, for the acrid and bitter properties of these and other plants of like nature aid wonderfully the digestion of other food. "Instinct is a great matter," said old Jack Falstaff. True as the needle to the poles, it points unerringly the way for the individual welfare of the whole brute creation. How important, then, it is, with a view to perfect management, that the shepherd should ascertain the likes and dislikes of the interesting animal for which he has to provide!

The philosophy of *salting sheep* frequently, during the season of pasturage, is no longer questioned; yet it is shamefully neglected. The change from dry food to grass should not be sudden; but, notwithstanding this care, more or less will scour, if salted too much, immediately after dry fodder is wholly disused. For several weeks thereafter, less than two quarts to the hundred is better than a larger quantity; after which, about four quarts is the amount I give, and that, on the average of the season, once in about five days. The above caution of salting in small quantities should be rigidly observed with yearlings, until after shearing. Salt is a material aid to the digestive organs, and it is a pretty well ascertained fact, also, one of the preventions of disease with nearly all domestic animals; and if given in judicious quantities, will induce greater thrift and condition. Hear what Youatt, the distinguished sheep historian, says; "Passing by the beautiful country of Montpelier, (France,) and the mouths of the Rhone, the traveller can study the fine sheep and the sheep husbandry of Arles. The district of the Cran, in length nearly eighteen miles, and about half as much in breadth, extends from the mountains towards the sea-coast. It is one uniform gentle declivity; in no part of it is there the slightest portion of stagnant water; and not a tree or bush is to be seen The soil is consequently dry, and apparently barren enough; but the herbage which it affords is that which peculiarly suits the sheep, and the cocksfoot grass, and the clover, (*Trifolium pratense,*) and the common thyme, and the wild thyme, and the lavender, (*Lavandula spica,*) grow amid the flints, affording a pasture nutritive without one dangerous aqueous property, and of a luxuriance that would scarcely be deemed possible. No less than 130,000 sheep are grazed on this declivity. A writer, in the Memoirs of the

Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, attributes the thriving of the sheep on such a spot *to the free use of salt*, thereby enabling the *digestive organs to extract every particle of nutriment which the food contains.*" He says, "on this spot, so seemingly sterile, by the free use of salt, more numerous flocks are bred and reared than upon any other common of equal extent throughout the whole kingdom; and what is not less remarkable, the sheep are *healthier, hardier*, and *endure the severity of the winter with less loss*, though they have fewer sheep cots for covering than those fed and bred on more copious pastures, and that have, besides, the advantage of more cenveient shelter." Other authority on this subject could be cited, but the above is deemed quite conclusive.

I had almost forgotten to notice a practice with thousands of farmers, (and a lazy one it is too,) when removing a flock of sheep, of letting down only the *ends* of the bars, instead of taking two or three of the lowest *entirely out.* All know who have witnessed it, the rush that is made at such times; and, consequently, feeble sheep are often thrown down and run over, and if heavy with lamb, injury must follow. But this is not all; the great danger is of getting their feet fast between the bars, and their legs are liable to be broken or severely injured. If you are in a hurry, you will save time by adopting what is recommended.

SALMAGUNDI.

Manure.

Put on your land all the manure that can be scraped from your premises, or that you are entitled to from the road. Leave not a particle in the barn-yard. It matters not how coarse or long it is if you can plough it in. All you get from it before another season is clear gain, for it will lose but little more under the ground with a crop over it, than exposed to the action of the sun and rains in the yard. If it cannot be used, place it in heaps and cover it two feet thick with earth, which will inhale and retain most of its enriching gases till wanted.

Am. Agriculturist.

Preparation of the ground for Wheat.

As the time has arrived when every prudent farmer, should be getting his ground ready for the fall seeding of his wheat, it may not be inopportune to suggest the propriety of deep ploughing of all grass or clover leys, as also the laying of the furrows flat, and we would further remark, that we believe the farmer would find his interest in sowing a bushel of plaster to the acre, on all such fields previous to turning under the grass. If the views of Leibig be correct as to action of plaster, in assimilating with, and fixing the ammonia in the soil, and we believe they are, then there can be no doubt of the utility of the application we recommend, as it must be evident, that it would preserve much valuable nutriment for the use of the growing plants, which, otherwise owing to the volatility of its nature, would escape by evaporation and be lost to vegetation. It appears to us obvious too, that the furrows, in every instance, should be compressed by having a roller passed over them previous to being harrowed. By submitting them to such a process, the fermentation of the inverted sod would be promoted, while the escape of pabulous gases would be measurably prevented. If plaster possesses the capacity ascribed to it, of retaining the food of plants in the soil, and of giving it out progressively, as it may be called for in the different stages of their growth, the beneficial effects of its application cannot be too highly appreciated, as the gradual dispensation of the essence of the nature, which would be the necessary consequence of such action, would be the very best thing that could be desired to promote that regular growth in plants, which is so conducive to success, and which, at the difficult period of maturation, is so essential to insure a state of continuous health to the stalk, whence the grain, at that particular juncture, receives not only its chief sustenance, but the power of perfection.

To Protect Sheep From the Gad Fly.

In August and September, this fly lays its eggs in the nostrils of the sheep, where they are hatched and the worms crawl into the head, and frequently they eat through to the brain. In this way many sheep are destroyed. Lay some tar in a trough or on a board and strew fine salt on it. The sheep will finish the operation. The tar will protect them, and what they eat will promote their health. Farmer's Journal.

From the Southern (Va.) Planter.

Black Sheep.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—A neighbor selected a very likely young ram which he designed "turning out" and at shearing time made known such intention to his "headman," Peter. The shearing being over, Peter came to his master and said the lamb he had selected would not do to "turn out" unless he wished to have black sheep in his flock. How do you make that out, Pete? said his

master; the lamb is the whitest in the flock. That may be, replied Pete, but I tell you half his lambs will be black, *for he has a* BLACK STREAK *under his tongue.* The master and myself, in talking upon the subject, came to the conclusion that a greater man than Pete had advanced the same opinion, and accordingly we picked up an old Virgil and commenced the search. After no little trouble, we found the following:—(Geo. 3—387.)

"Illum autem, quamvis aries sit candidus ipse
Nigra subest udo tantum cui lingua palato,
Rejice, ne maculis infuscet vellera pullis,
Nascentum,"

The English of which, I presume is, but, though the ram himself may be white, reject him, under whose moist palate there is a black tongue, that we may not darken the fleeces of the lambs with blackish spots.

Whether Pete borrowed the idea from the "Mantuan Bard" or not, is a matter of no consequence. The question for you, Mr. Betts, or some of your correspondents is—is the idea correct. We have, you see, the opinion of a "book farmer" and a practical one—of an ancient and a modern—a great man and a little one. P. B. W.

Nottoway.

Raising of Calves for Veal.

There is perhaps no meat which comes to our markets in so indifferent a state as that of veal. When proper care is taken with calves, there is no variety of flesh more palatable or gratifying to the human appetite, and yet notwithstanding this fact, from the indifference manifested by those who prepare them for the butcher, there is no meat generally speaking, brought to the shambles so utterly destitute of all pretensions to fitness of condition. A calf, if properly fed, would command as veal, such price as would be ample remuneration for all trouble and expense for rearing and feeding; bnt as they are not brought to market, there is no part of the product of the farm which pays so indifferently well. And as there is a remedy at hand, this evil should be corrected.

With a view of contributing our mite towards the reform of this custom, of bringing *poor* calves to the slaughter we will detail a method of making *fat* ones, which we have seen successfully pursued.

The calf when first calved should be taken from the mother and confined in a dry dark room, with plenty of bedding. The mother should be let to it to suckle it three times a day at regular hours, and the calf should receive all her milk.

When the calf is a week old, in addition to its mother's milk, it should be given between the morning and midday and evening times of sucking, force balls made of raw eggs and half a pint of corn meal at each mess; the balls to be made of convenient size to be given the calf without difficulty. The manner of feeding which we have seen pursued is this—the calf's head is held up and backwards by the feeder with one hand, who opens the calf's mouth with the other, and thrusts the force ball down towards the root of the tongue, when, by closing and holding the mouth, the calf is compelled to swallow the ball. These two additional feeds will answer until the third week, when another egg and additional half pint of meal must be given, about an hour after the evening suckling. By feeding in this way, in four weeks the calf will be in good condition and ready for the butcher, and will command as much again as one which receives nothing but its mother's milk. These balls would be the better of being made up with milk which had been scalded.

Should this method of feeding *scour*, that may be very promptly corrected, by mixing with the balls a teaspoonful of powdered chalk, and one-fourth that quantity of powdered alum.

A calf which is large and strong, may be further improved by being fed with sweet skimmed milk. The calf may be taught to drink the milk by forcing its head down into the vessel containing it, and inserting the four finger into its mouth for a day or two. And the color of the veal may be greatly improved by subjecting the calf to the operation of bleeding, twice during the fattening period, say at intervals two weeks apart.

At all times the calf should have in a trough convenient to it, with two apartments, a small quantity of good hay, and grass of some kind, at either of which it may pick when it pleases. Amer. Farmer.

Sowing Seeds, and Causes of Failure.

Much of the complaint which is made of the failure of seeds, is owing to the want of care in sowing them, or to other circumstances than their bad quality. Many kinds of seeds are very small, and if these have more than a slight covering of earth, they will not vegetate. And, on the other hand, when slightly covered one or two days of hot sun will dry the earth, so that if they have sprouted they will be inevitably destroyed. Some kinds of small seeds will not vegetate well unless the earth is rolled or pressed firmly in contact with them.—(Thus it will be seen that small seeds should be sown in

fine earth, covered lightly, and rolled or pressed down, and the bed should be shaded from the hot sun and watered frequently in dry weather.) Some seeds have a hard shell or pericarp, and require several days' *soaking* before sowing, in order to cause them to vegetate freely. If these are sown without any preparation and dry weather ensues, they will invariably fail. Other kinds, natives of warm climates, will be sure to rot if sown when the weather is cold and moist; and some even require a good hot-bed to cause them to vegetate. On the other hand, some kinds require cool moist weather, and will not grow if sown late, when the weather is hot and dry. Again, sometimes the seed vegetate well, but before the plants have become fairly visible, they are destroyed by the myriads of insects which often infest the ground in summer. These are a few of the many causes which every experienced gardener knows frequently prevent the growth of seeds; but the failure is often attributed to their bad quality.

New Genesee Farmer.

Crop of Corn Stalks.

Permit me to mention an experiment made by myself at Washington, on the subject of fodder.—Noticing the statement made in the French periodicals, that the stalks of corn (maize) contained one-half as much saccharine matter as cane, and knowing that my ancestors made their molasses during the revolutionary war from these stalks, I sowed four and a half bushels of common corn broad-cast, and harrowed in the same. This labor was easily preformed by a single man with a team (including the ploughing) in a day. Having soaked the corn in salt-petre water, it took a rapid start, overtopped the weeds, and covered the ground with a forest of stalks. When fairly tasseled, I cut the same, which I feed to the cattle, horses and hogs, both green and dry. If fed to swine after being cured, it was cut and fermented with chop or bran. Being anxious to ascertain the quantity, I measured a few square feet of the stoutest. I found 5 pounds of green fodder per square foot; this may not seem incredible, and it is probably less than what would grow in rich lands at the West; if, however, we consider there are 43,560 square feet in an acre, we shall obtain 217,800 pounds, equal to 108½ tons of green fodder!

I cut the first crop the early part of July, and ploughed and sowed the same land again, and took a second crop two-thirds as large, and even tried a third on the same land, but it did not reach over ten inches before the frost seized it. Persons who have only a small patch of ground may try this experiment to advantage, and fill their barns with fodder.

In curing stalks, it is recommended to place the small end upon the ground, with the butts upward, to guard against the absorption of moisture from the wet ground. Whoever will try the experiment of cutting flowers, and putting some on damp flannel, or into water, and hanging up others in the sun, will see the advantage of curing fodder in the way I have mentioned. Should any fear the stalks would not stand upon the small end, a few rows could be left to support the remainder. HON. H. L. ELLSWORTH.

For the Western Farmer and Gardener.

MR. C. FOSTER:

Dear Sir,—I see in the June number of the Farmer and Gardener, (which I have but just received,) a correspondent, who calls himself "An Old Silk Grower," has "made free," not only to "notice," but to misrepresent my communication, which, it seems, appeared in your May number; which number, I, as well as your other subscribers who take their paper from the Zanesville post office, have never received. You will perceive then that I am held out in no very enviable position before my friends and acquaintances by the "Old Silk Grower." He has hung me out, you see, as *quite a considerable of a humbug.*

I am sorry that any occasion exists for clashing with one whose views on the main subject in question, so exactly coincide with my own that I cannot "agree to disagree" with him. His advice to "Tyro," together with his remarks on the subject generally, I most cordially approve. And to those who read my remarks, I should deem no appeal or refutation necessary to place the matter in its true light. But under the peculiar circumstances of the case, justice to myself impels me to tell him he has either grossly misunderstood or wilfully misrepresented my statements. He charges me with "overrating" and making statements which are "only calculated to mislead and disappoint the inexperienced;"—cautions "Tyro," not to be led astray by them, and tauntingly assures him that, so far from *one hand* being able to feed a million of worms in a season, no *five hands* could gather the leaves for them the last ten days of their existence, let alone handing to them."

Who said they could? I certainly did not. I did not recommend Spaulding's apparatus as a contrivance for gathering leaves, for chopping them, or for handing them to the worms; but as an "improved apparatus for fitting up a cocoonery," which I *believed* to be "decidedly superior to any other plan yet known;" and I "capped the climax," sure enough, by adding the following *on dit*—"and with it, *it is said*, one person may *attend*, (not

"feed,") a million of worms in a season." This is the unqualified assertion of the inventor, Dr. Spaulding. Whether it is an exaggeration or not,—whether it is practicable or not,—whether the statement is "only calculated to mislead and disappoint the inexperienced" or not, I do not pretend to know. But if any Tyro is dunce enough so far to misapprehend the meaning of the quotation, or suffer himself to be so far misled by it as to attempt to *gather leaves, feed and attend* a million of worms, or half a million in a season, alone, dont let him blame me if he finds the "thing of raising worms very different from what he had heard, and begins to want more light on the subject," for I tell him I do not hold myself responsible for any failure or disappointment he may meet with.

Your correspondent seems to think he has discovered the cause of the digging up of those trees I "complained about." Perhaps he has; I will not dispute that point with him, though I can tell him that one of the gentlemen, at least, to whom I alluded, is neither a "gambler," nor a man to be deceived by "gamblers." He planted his orchard with a design to enter into the business of silk making, "honestly," I have no doubt, nor do I believe he has ever been deceived or assisted by "fine tales" about a feeding apparatus that will *feed a million of worms in a season*, or about a "*machine* that finishes silk for any purpose you may want it for," in a little less than no time. By the way, I "make free" to caution the "Old Silk Grower," the next time he attempts to pluck a mote from a brother's eye, to consider whether there is not a beam, or something like one, in his own eye; and when he recommends his machine, be careful not to "overrate" it, or describe it in language ambiguous, or not intelligible to every capacity, lest some "Tyro" should be "misled" to purchase one, expecting it to take his *million* of cocoons, and "finish the silk for any purpose he may want it for," whether for a plush hat, a vest for himself, a dress pattern for his wife, or a ribbon to trim her bonnet, spin it, weave it, dye it, and finish it, "in a little more time than it would take to reel it." For with his intellect, or with his disposition to distort, or criticise, one might just as rationally infer that he meant to recommend his machine to be capable of doing all this and more, as that I meant to assert that, with Spaulding's fixture, one hand can gather leaves and *feed* a million of worms in a season.

Respectfully, yours, J. TOWNSEND.

Falls township, August 22, 1842.

The Orchard,—No. 5.

I serve up a few more specimens of our fruits.

APPLES.

PRINCES' HARVEST.

Size. Two and two-tenths inches long, two and seven-tenths wide.

Form. Globular; nearly equally flattened at both ends.

Pulp. White, very tender, juicy.

Color. Pale yellow.

Surface. Reflective; dots scattered, pale.

Flavor. Very pleasant; spicy.

Stem. Seven-tenths inches long, moderately stout, smooth, yellowish green, expanded at the free end; even with the verge.

Eye. In a shallow cavity; open.

Ripens in the 7th month. It is among our most valuable apples. The tree is a good bearer.

QUEEN APPLE.

Size. Two and two-tenths inches long; two and six-tenths inches wide.

Form. Globular, flattened at base; somewhat pointed at the summit.

Pulp. Exceedingly tender; juicy; whitish.

Color. Orange yellow, with short and distant streaks of pale red.

Surface. Rather dull; dots light colored, scattered; skin thick.

Flavor. Spicy; pleasant.

Stem. One inch long; greenish yellow, slender, half of it projecting beyond the verge.

Eye. In a very shallow depression; closed.

Ripens in the 7th and 8th months; it is a fine apple for immediate use. The tree bears well.

DWARF APPLE.

Size. One and six-tenths inches long; one and nine-tenths wide.

Form. Globular; much flattened at both ends.

Pulp. Whitish, moderately juicy, somewhat spongy.

Color. Yellowish, with a little pale red occasionally.

Surface. Moderately reflective; dots scattered, brown.

Flavor. Sweet, with considerable astringency.

Stem. Seven-tenths inch long, yellowish green.

Eye. Closed; in a considerable cavity.

This fruit has been recently introduced

here, merely as an ornamental appendage to the garden; the tree being but two or three feet high. It is said to attain maturity in a few years from the seed. The fruit ripens in 7th month.

SUMMER PEARMAIN.

Size. Two and one-half inches long; two and eight-tenths wide.

Form. Globular; considerably and nearly equally flattened at both ends.

Pulp. Tender, juicy, greenish white.

Surface. Rather dull; dots light colored or greenish.

Color. Greenish yellow, with confluent streaks of pale red, interrupted by greenish dots, or mottled by them.

Flavor. Sweet; delicious.

Stem. One inch long, stout, yellowish green; in a considerable cavity.

Eye. In a saucer-like cavity.

This is among our most palatable apples. If the Summer Queen was so named, because of its imagined superiority over her kind, I think this pearmain well deserves acting as her consort under the designation, Summer *King*. It ripens in the 8th month; and the tree is very productive. The apple has by no means a promising exterior.

BOUGH APPLE.

Size. Three inches long and wide.

Form. Globular; flattened at the ends.

Pulp. Remarkably tender, white, and moderately juicy.

Color. Yellow.

Surface. Smooth; moderately reflective.

Flavor. Sweetish, very pleasant.

Stem. Seven-tenths inch long; greenish; in a deep cavity.

Eye. Closed; in a moderate cavity.

This is another choice apple, ripening in the 7th month. The tree is a moderate bearer.

NAMELESS.

Size. Two and nine-tenths inches in length and width.

Form. Globular, much pointed at the summit; a little flattened at the base.

Pulp. Juicy, tender, whitish.

Color. Greenish yellow.

Surface. Moderately reflective. Dots scattered, light colored.

Flavor. Sweet.

Stem. Eight-tenths inch, just reaching the verge; stout; greenish.

Eye. Closed; in a shallow depression.

This apple ripens in the 7th month. I cannot at present give any information respecting the tree.

YELLOW JUNE.

Size. One and seven-tenths inches long, wo and one-tenth wide.

Form. Globular, with variable flattening at the ends.

Pulp. Whitish, very juicy and tender.

Color. Yellowish.

Surface. Reflective in a low degree when rubbed. Dots, variable in number and distinctness.

Flavor. Pleasantly acid.

Stem. Very variable, two-tenths to eight-tenths inch long; slender; greenish yellow slightly sunk.

Eye. Closed; a little umbilicated.

The tree is a good bearer; ripens its fruit in the 7th month. This year the fruit ripens in the 6th month. One of our nurserymen informs me it is matured in North Carolina in the 5th month, and is there called the May Apple. It is quite a fragrant apple, and claims a place in the orchard for its earliness and its flavor.

Among a number of typographical errors which appear in former descriptions, one or two require notice. In these instances, *or* is substituted for *on*, as in No. 3, under *Long Island Pearmain*, "Red *or* a greenish ground," instead of "*on* a greenish ground." More anon.

J. T. P.

Water Rotting Hemp.

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal.

GENTLEMEN:—Within a few months I have been solicited by hemp-growers and committees of hemp-growers in different states, to communicate the results of my experience in water rotting hemp. To answer all the questions proposed in these letters, by a distinct reply to each writer, would be a serious undertaking. I am willing to contribute all the information I have on this subject, to gratify those who think it worth knowing; and therefore offer, for publication in your widely circulating Journal a short account of my practice in water-rotting hemp: together with some of the reasons which have induced me to prefer this to other modes which have come under my notice. It is hoped that this communication will be taken as a reply to all pertinent questions which have been propounded to me.

The first thing of importance, in the management of hemp, intended to be water-rotted, is the cutting and curing. I consider it ripe for cutting when the male stalks assume a yellow and somewhat spotted appearance, and drop all or nearly all their leaves. If permitted to stand until these stalks die and become of a uniform dark brown color, the lint will for ever after retain this color, and give the hemp a striped appearance, which will be prejudicial to it in market. After cutting, let the hemp lie two or three days on the ground, then tie in bundles of about six inches in diameter, and set up in loose shocks to complete the curing. As soon as it is sufficiently dry to prevent mould, it

should be put into large stacks. This may commonly be done in six or eight days after cutting. If possible, it should be got into stack without rain. In this situation it safely awaits the leisure of the grower, or the chosen time for water-rotting. What the proper time is, or, which amounts to the same thing, whether warm, torpid, or cool water is best for the purpose, has not been decided. I have never commenced rotting earlier than the 1st of October, nor do my own observation and experience incline me to an earlier beginning. But whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the proper temperature of the water, I think it cannot be disputed that the eligible place for water-rotting is an artificial pool or vat, which can be filled with water readily and emptied at pleasure. Few persons will be found willing to repeat an experiment made in a creek or pond. A good site for a vat is the margin of a branch where the vat can be made sufficiently deep and leave the bottom at least as high as the surface of the branch opposite, and where a sufficient head of water can be obtained to fill it, either by means of pipes or a small conducting ditch. There should be a wooden trunk connecting the bottom of the vat with the branch below, in one end of which is fitted a moveable gate, by closing which the water may be shut in, or by hoisting, let off. A vat fifty feet long, twelve feet wide, and two and a half or three feet deep, will contain a common stack, that will yield about 1,200 pounds of clean hemp. As this vat is merely a hole dug in the ground, and not lined with plank, it will of course, require a constant stream of water to keep it full, by supplying the leakage. The vat being prepared, and clear of water, bring forward the hemp, and after beating the leaves off, tie the bundles anew, with bands of rye straw, two on each.—The common hempen bands in a wet state, are not strong enough to sustain the wet hemp, while those of straw rarely slip and never break. You are now ready to pack the hemp in. Begin at one end of the vat, and lay the butts against that end, till the hemp reaches the desired depth. In this way considerable inclination or slope is obtained, which should be preserved throughout the packing.

By this arrangmeut, it is obvious that the water can be better drained off than when the position of the bundles is horizontal. After filling the vat in this way, cover it over with any plank, and put on a sufficient weight to confine the hemp beneath the water. The water may now be let in to cover the hemp. To avoid the repeated handling of so much weight as will be required to keep the hemp down, I would recommend walling the sides of the vat with locust or oak sills, into which are set four dovetailed upright posts, at proper intervals and opposite each other. For these posts, let wide and long mortises be cut, to receive the ends of strong beams extending across the vat, and plying in these mortises. These beams are made to confine the hemp by placing wedges or keys above them in the mortises, and are raised to allow the hemp to be taken out. Each beam may operate on a surface of twelve feet, or six feet on each side of it. This construction will save much labor, and prevent repeated walking over the hemp, in putting on or taking off the weight.

The hemp is now immersed in water, and it is extremely important to know when it has remained there long enough. I confess I have discovered no infallible symptom by which this can be determined. Some say when a handful, in a wet state, can be broken or pulled in two. But this experiment, depending upon the degree of power applied, cannot be relied on. All that I know is, before it is sufficiently rotted, the stalks are coated with whitish gum or mucilage; and, after taking out the hemp, I have also found more or less of this substance in a coagulated state, on the bottom of the vat. A little experience, however, and a careful regard to the temperature of the weather and water, and the appearance of the hemp, will enable one to decide when to take out with sufficient accuracy. In this climate, in ordinary seasons, I have found from fifteen to twenty days enough to rot hemp in October; from twenty to twenty-five in November; and from twenty-five to thirty-five in winter. The evening previous to the day fixed upon for taking the hemp out, the flood-gate should be opened, and by morning nearly all the water will have drained from the hemp, and consequently the labor will be lightened. Great care must now be taken in handling the hemp, for it will be found extremely tender. Indeed those who handle it cannot be too careful in any stage; for, if once tangled, the quantity and quality will be both impaired. The weight being removed, or the beams raised, as the case may be, let a sled or dray be brought close to the side of the vat, that the hemp may be taken with the hands and placed upon it, and hauled to a piece of sod or stubble land, where it must be at once spread as straight, thin, and evenly as possible. Here it may lie not only until it is perfectly dry, but until it can be cleaned without excessive labor; at the same time the strength of the lint must not be endangered. When ready to be broken, and perfectly dry, set it up in close shocks, and break in dry, cool weather. Those who break it, should be made to take small parcels at a time, and keep it straight and even, and by all means to avoid milling it in the breaking. This is frequently done by keeping it in twist under the brake.

I have now sketched the whole process of water-rotting as performed by me. It only remains to glance at some of the reasons that influenced me in adopting this course. And first as to the season or temperature of the water in which it is best to water-rot. My first

experiments were made twelve years ago. At that time the opinions prevailed that the business was unhealthy, and I did not feel at liberty to expose my hands to the supposed danger of dabbling in water, and of breathing a tainted, or at least an extremely offensive atmosphere in August and September, when ordinary causes were operating to produce bilious disease. At this day, gentlemen of experience assert that, although the miasm or effluvia is unpleasant, it is not promotive of disease at any season. Be this as it may, I deem it safer not to try it in the *dog days*, especially when there is no necessity for it. I have made a better article in cool or cold weather than I have made in warm. In the former it requires only a little more time and vat room, one of which costs us nothing and the other very little. From my first trials, (which have now extended to three crops,) I have reasoned thus :—If the business is at all injurious to health, it is least so in cold weather; if you rot in August, you must wait till November to break, else you have great difficulty in cleaning, and after all make a rough article. Every hemp grower knows that hemp dew-rotted in winter is better than that dew-rotted in warmer weather; and that the same hemp broken in a cool dry day is better, and turns out more, than when broken in a dry warm day. And why may not heat and cold affect water-rotted hemp in the same way, and to the same extent? Moreover, the best hemp is brought from Riga, a province in Russia, lying between 55° and 60° of north latitude, where the winter usually sets in in October, and where consequently the summer is very short; so short that the hemp can scarcely be pulled before frost. Now, from these facts, in the absence of authority to the contrary, the inference is plain, that Riga hemp is rotted in cool weather and cool water, too, unless steam is introduced. We need at present a plain and practical account of the Russian manner of preparing hemp. I have read several papers on this subject, written by diplomatists or travelling gentlemen, all differing from one another, and all evidently deriving their facts from rumor. Our present minister to Russia, a hemp grower himself, may benefit his native state, and his country generally, by publishing a veritable account of the Russian management of hemp, confirmed by his own observations.

As to the form and size of the vats, gentlemen may exercise their own tastes, but it will not answer to have them too deep. Three feet will be found full deep; for, if deeper, the hemp will rot unevenly, from the difference between the states of the water at the top and bottom. Some contrivance for perfect draining is of great importance, as the handling and hauling of the wet hemp is most unpleasant, and the heaviest portion of the whole work.

I am inclined to believe that whenever the mucilage is perfectly extracted from the hemp, it is ready to be taken out of the water; that this gum probably causes the lint to adhere to the stalk, and being removed, renders the separation easy. And moreover that this mucilage, being removed, carries with it not only the coloring matter, which blackens the dew-rot hemp, but also the corroding hand, or something else which causes its speedy decay. An accurate chemical analysis might throw some light upon this subject. It is certainly a fact that, after the hemp has been divested of this gum, it may be spread out, and take several rains and frosts without apparent injury. They seem to clean and bleach it without impairing its strength. My practice is to take the hemp from the vat, certainly before it is over done, and spread it on the ground or grass. This formed no part of my original plan, but I was brought to it by experience. At first my hemp was taken out and set up to dry against scaffolding, which proved not to be extensive enough to hold it all. The remainder was therefore spread. I found that on the scaffolding, although as thin as it could well be, to stand safely, adhering together from mildew; while that on the ground was not thus affected and soon dried. In a subsequent trial, after the hemp was dry I found it could not be cleaned, and let it lie a month or more, when it cleaned easily, was considerably bleached, and was still very strong; but it had lost the greenish tinge of Russian hemp. I have learned that this green color, though common, is not necessary to good hemp.

My hands have cleaned of water-rotted hemp upon the common brake, from fifty to one hundred and forty pounds per day. The average of my good hands has been ninety pounds. It certainly requires more labor to clean it than dew-rot, but the health of my hands has not been in the least affected by it.

In conclusion, I will state that, about ten years ago, I sent to Philadelphia five or six tons of hemp prepared in the manner described here. It was sent just as it came from the brake, (except pressing,) and my agent wrote me, that it was considered equal to any Russian hemp in the market, and brought as high a price.

CHARLES BUFORD.

Georgetown, Ky., July 15, 1842.

Brussels Sprouts.

As a spring sprout, or greens, there is nothing superior to this vegetable, and, as it is very productive, a very little bed will serve a large family. If you desire to have a supply next spring, now is the time to sow. Manure and spade your ground well; then rake and sow the seed; and finish by raking and rolling.

American Farmer, Aug. 3d.

The proprietor of the Western Farmer and Gardener, has the unpleasant duty of apologizing to his subscribers for an irregular issue of the numbers of his work for the last three months. He might spin out a lengthy article on the topic, but feels that a simple statement of facts will have more weight, and carry with it more extenuation, than a page or two of other explanation for effect could accomplish.

He is publisher and editor—does all the *drawings and engravings* for the work he issues—the lapse that has taken place in his publication has arisen from the circumstance of his having had *his arm broken*, which has prevented altogether his attention to business, and the delay which has taken place has occurred from the circumstance of his being unable to procure any person to fulfil his editorial and other duties, in the interim, especially those connected with the illustrations of the work. He is now getting convalescent, and the friends and supporters of this periodical may rely upon the Western Farmer and Gardener being again issued with regularity.

Notices of Publications.

We have on our table the second number of the Dollar Farmer, published monthly by Messrs. Prentice and Weissinger, of Louisville, Ky. It is printed in quarto form; each number containing 16 pages, embellished with wood engravings illustrating some of the subjects treated of, at $1 per year. We much regret the suspension of the Kentucky Farmer, a work that we always read with interest; but we are glad to see the void occasioned by the breaking up of that paper, so well filled, as we consider it is, by the Dollar Farmer, which we take pleasure in recommending to the notice of our friends.

South Western Farmer, published by N. G. North, Raymond, Mississippi, in weekly numbers, printed in quarto form; each number containing 8 pages, at $3 per year. We beg to congratulate our friends North and Jenkins on the success of their experiment in the establishment of this paper, assuring them we watch its progress with interest. We wish to see every state in the Union, liberally supporting its own agricultural paper, and particularly recommend this to the attention of the farming community, for the spirited manner in which it is conducted and the neatness of its typographical execution.

We have the fifth number of the American Agriculturist, published in New York, and edited by our friend, A. B. Allen and his brother. The necessary attainments of the Messrs. Allens, for the task they have undertaken, are too well known to need any comment from ourself. We have only to say that, the present number fully sustains the character of its predecessors, and that the valuable information contained in its pages, are particularly worthy the attention of the agricultural population; it is an octavo in form, of 32 pages, at the low price of $1 per year.

Care of Apple Trees.

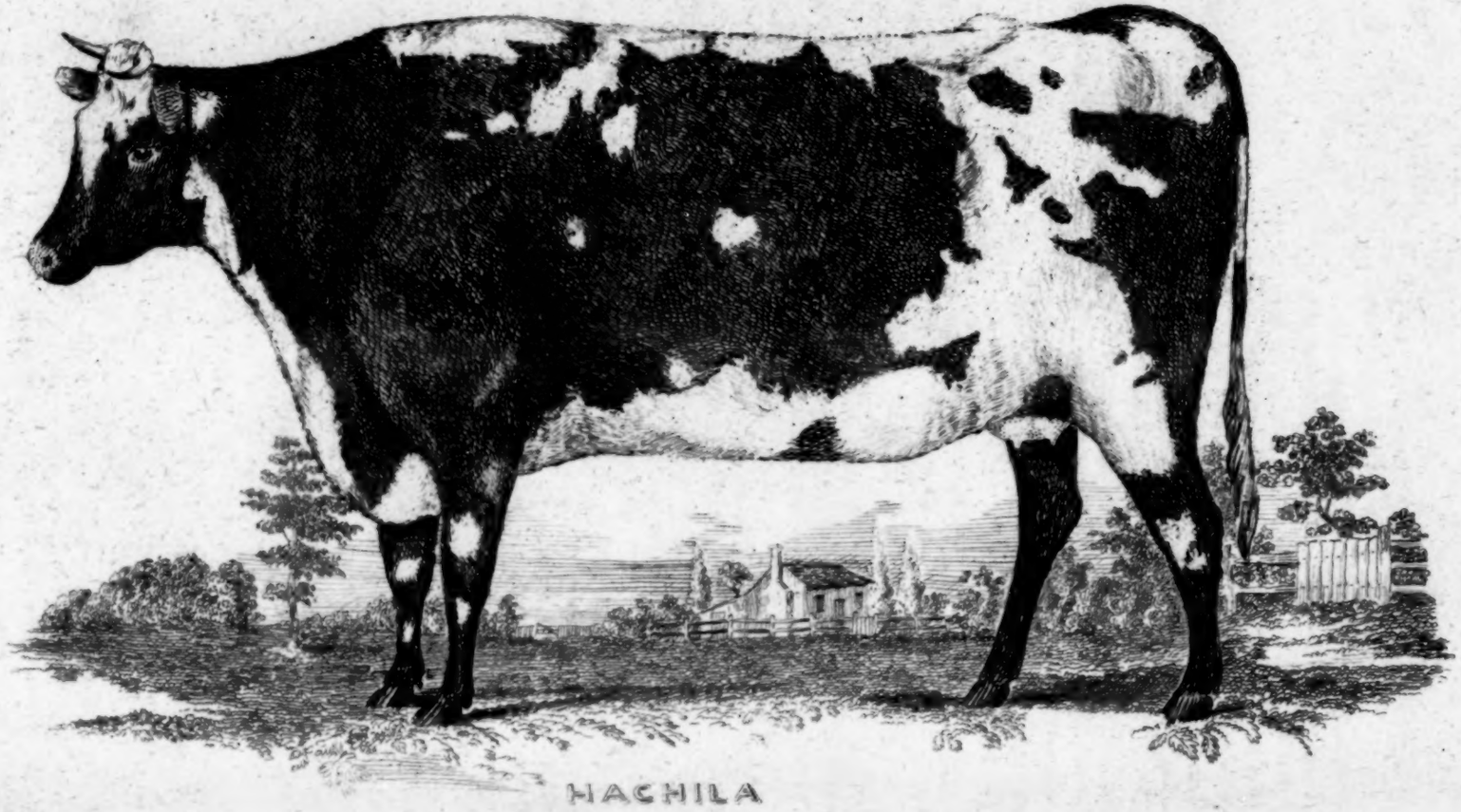
Travelling through the United States in 1840, '41, '42, I observed the apple-trees were become very scrubbed, and many of the apples inferior in size and flavor. The inhabitants ascribed these effects to the apple-tree worm. I believe they are all mistaken. Why do they not destroy the worms? It is very easy to be done. Lime-water or strong soapsuds, thrown on them, will give them a quietus. I am, however, certain the defect is owing to no other cause than lopping the trees in the month of March and April. Let them alone until after they are out of blossom, and then from that time until the leaves fall, trim and lop them. If you are doubtful of the good effect of this treatment, just try one or two of the worst trees in your orchards, and you will see a great change in less than two years. Instead of putting out suckers, as it is generally called, the trees will grow smooth and thrifty, and the fruit become smooth and fine, with a great increase in size and flavor. I have tried the experiment, and found it to succeed beyond my expectations.

The best manure I ever found for an orchard is to draw fresh earth from a distance, and throw a few shovelfuls carelessly near the root of the trees, but not to touch the trunk.

Apples are deemed by many a worthless crop since the temperance societies have been established. As cider is going out of fashion, try how your horses, cows, and swine will relish a feed of those sorts you used to grind up for cider. Apple-trees in general produce the greatest profit for the labor, of any crop produced on a farm, and, if well attended, will pay fifty per cent. clear gain on all outlays.

B. K. DODGE.
New Genesee Farmer.

To prevent horses from having the botts, mix a handful of strong ashes with their food twice a week, at least. Union Agriculturist.



HACHILA